Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

OAS Decision, U.S. Troop Deployment Reported

PY0310122991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] A mission of Caribbean foreign ministers will travel to Port-au-Prince with the OAS secretary general to urge the Haitian military to promptly reverse the coup to expedite the reinstatement of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. This was the decision reached by the unprecedented meeting of the OAS in Washington where Aristide said that Latin America must end its history of military dictatorships. The OAS mission will deliver a preemptory message: If the military does not withdraw to its quarters, the strictest economic sanctions will be implemented and as a last resource a peace force could be deployed.

The Pentagon has reported that the United States has sent a contingent of Marines to the Caribbean to prepare for a possible evacuation of Americans from Haiti. This action was taken after President George Bush stated he is unwilling to use U.S. forces to suppress the military coup in Haiti. It is believed that there are approximately 7,000 U.S. citizens in Haiti.

Coup leader General Raoul Cedras told a French radio station that he does not plan to remain in power, is willing to return power to a civilian government, and to convene new elections.

U.S. Marines Reinforce Guantanamo

FL0310115291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] A Pentagon source which asked to remain anonymous has confirmed that the United States has sent a Marine contingent to the Caribbean to prepare for possible military action in Haiti. The source revealed that a contingent of slightly more than 500 Marines has been sent from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba, and there are 22 warships in waters close to Haiti that could be used in a possible military operation.

According to the Pentagon spokesperson, who refused to give his name, the decision to send troops was made after President George Bush stated that he did not preclude the possibility of using force against the Haitian military, which carried out the coup that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Nevertheless, political observers in Washington noted that in his speech to the UN General Assembly last Tuesday, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca asserted that the United States has not dismissed the possibility of military action against Cuba. This new situation in the Caribbean raises a question: Against whom is this reinforcement of U.S. troops at the Guantanamo Naval Base and the deployment of war ships in nearby waters directed?

Commentary Condemns Military Coup in Haiti

PA0310035491 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Oct 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The novel experience of the first democratically elected Haitian Government was cut short by another violent Armed Forces takeover, which was backed by the remainder of the hated Duvalierist corps known as the Tonton Macoutes.

According to statements made over the radio by the Armed Forces commander, Brigade General Raoul Cedras, the military toppled the constitutional president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to keep the government afloat and because the country was torn by uncertainty. Cedras avoided mentioning the bloodbath that has allowed the military to control the situation in the country.

This Caribbean country, which has more than six million inhabitants, now begins a phase of still further uneasiness as the future of the nation is totally in the hands of an institution that, together with the Tonton Macoutes, symbolizes a black past linked to the Duvalier dictatorship. The Tonton Macoutes' infamous history is saturated with crimes, acts of political destabilization, coups, and the annihilation of any kind of opposition.

We should recall that Roger Lafontant, former leader of the paramilitary corps, tried to stage a coup d'etat in January to prevent President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide's inauguration. Even though Lafontant was later imprisoned, it is reported that he still managed to pull a few strings and organize conspiracies. Lafontant, who reportedly died in an incident linked with the current coup according to media reports, was a member of Haiti's most dangerous force—which is responsible for the almost constant state of unrest in which the Caribbean nation has lived.

From the time the people's protests in 1986 forced Jean-Claude Duvalier, self-appointed president for life, into exile in France, these military and paramilitary groups—allied with members of the bourgeoisie and the oligarchy—became extremely active. However, international pressure and the long-suffering Haitian people's wish for peace led to the December 1990 general elections, from which Aristide emerged triumphant, encouraged by the masses and acosted by the enemies of justice.

The military involved in the coup has violently interrupted the term of a president who had an outstanding academic education and excellent communication with the people, and who sought to improve the lives of his fellow citizens, although he lacked the necessary resources. Aristide was a pillar in the management of justice during his term, as stipulated in his movement's program.

Aristide's struggle against crime, corruption, violence, and the broad prerogatives of the military—in addition to his attempts to give the oppressed a dignified life—

caused irritation among those affected by his actions, and they have dealt a strong blow to a fragile and young project filled with good intentions.

Many countries have condemned the coup d'etat in Haiti and this movement should be immediately expanded while international organizations—particularly the United Nations—offer the appropriate channel for all the expressions of solidarity with the Haitian people and the demands for Aristide's return to his post of constitutional president.

U.S. Troop Mobilization 'Pretext' for Intervention

FL0310134691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 3 Oct 91

["Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] The denunciation made by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at the UN General Assembly, saying that the U.S. Government has not ruled out military intervention in our country, took on dramatic relevance today when a Pentagon source said, according to the U.S news agency AP, that there are a dozen U.S. warships in the Caribbean. I am going to quote verbatim another paragraph of the same AP report, which we received this morning in our newsroom.

It says the following: The source—this refers to the Pentagon informant—who spoke on condition that he would not be identified, said that a contingent of about 500 Marines had been sent from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba. He stated that some heavy cargo helicopters had also been sent for the possible evacuation of U.S. citizens. That is the paragraph of the AP report.

It is good to recall that the pretext the U.S. Government used to militarily invade the small island of Grenada was to evacuate a group of American students from the island, although the students were in no danger at all. I think the key to this entire situation, which allows us to infer that this U.S. military mobilization in the Caribbean is using the bloody and repudiable coup in Haiti as a pretext, is that Washington did not do anything, absolutely anything, to prevent the coup.

Everyone knows that coups in Latin America and the Caribbean are carried out with the express support or omission in complicity of the United States, but not against Washington's position. It would have been enough for the U.S. ambassador in Port-au-Prince to call the leader of the coup plotters to warn him about the resolute opposition of his government—with all the economic, political, and military implications this would have in the poorest country of Latin America and the Caribbean—for the coup plotters to have had second thoughts.

However, according to all the press reports from the beginning of this week, the U.S. ambassador acted as a mediator so that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the legitimate president of Haiti, could leave the country. Why mediate so that the Haitian president, who has enormous mass support, could leave the country, and not prevent the coup against him? It seems that what Washington wants is military intervention in Haiti to restore the legitimate government of that country, a government they did not defend before or during the coup, in order to create an aberrant precedent that could justify—I do not know to whom—a military attack against our country.

Today, AP has reported that right now there are a dozen U.S. warships near Haiti, and they could be reinforced in the event of a possible military operation, according to the source. The source cited by AP is the anonymous Pentagon informant. All this resembles a familiar Yankee interventionist set-up that takes advantage of the Haitian situation as a pretext and precedent for subsequent actions against our country. At least, that is my opinion.

Boris Pankin's View on U.S. Embargo Noted

FL0210214291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The new Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin has said that the United States should lift the 30-year-old trade embargo against Cuba and withdraw its troops from its Guantanamo military enclave. The Soviet diplomat made these comments during an interview broadcast on the U.S. Public Television Station, PBS, hours after U.S. President George Bush pledged that his policy towards the island would not change. Pankin stated that the embargo and the U.S. military presence on the island does not make sense during these times of detente. The report adds that Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said Washington should eliminate its blockade against Cuba and withdraw its troops from the naval base in Guantanamo.

Commentary Evaluates Salvadoran Peace Talks

PA2809015991 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Sep 91

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The negotiating process between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas had not been going anywhere for several weeks because of government intransigence. Finally, the government and the guerrillas signed an agreement at the United Nations. Salvadoran experts have described the agreement as the true beginning of a negotiating process. However, this process will not be free of pressures and complexities.

It must be said that the first obstacle to these important talks was placed by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, who created doubts about his participation in the meeting convoked by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. It is believed that only after holding lengthy consultations with his advisers did the president agree to head his government's delegation to the meeting. At the

meeting, he was entrapped by the patience of the UN secretary general and, especially, by the clear negotiating ability of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

Undoubtedly, Salvadoran military sectors and extreme right wing elements of the governing party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], had pressured the president not to talk with the rebels. These sectors pressured him not to talk with the rebels, however, if the talks were to take place, the president was to offer the rebels only one alternative: their complete demobilization. This would turn the FMLN rebels into the equivalent of the counterrevolutionary Nicaraguan Resistance.

However, the clear demonstration of flexibility on the part of the FMLN moved the president to agree to participate, even if alone, in this dialogue. The dialogue ended up being of fundamental importance to reaching future agreements that will definitely resolve the conflict, according to how some people view it.

As a result of the agreement signed at the United Nations, a new National Civilian Police will be created. The guerrillas will enter this police force to guarantee their integration into society. It was agreed to amend the Salvadoran Constitution so that the new police force does not become a division of the Defense Ministry. Some news agencies have reported that the negotiations established that the purpose of having an independent police force, composed of rebel members and prominent Salvadoran opposition leaders, is to ensure that this police force will be free of Army influence.

The agreement signed in New York also establishes the creation of a national commission whose objective will be to consolidate peace. This commission will serve as a mechanism for civilian control and participation in the process of changes that will result from the talks on the Armed Forces issue and other important issues.

The matter of a purge in the Armed Forces and the matter of clearing up human rights violations were not discussed; no firm agreement was reached on these issues. These matters, according to what has been announced, will be discussed at the next meeting to take place in Mexico City around mid-October.

In the beginning of this commentary we cited the opinion of Salvadoran experts when we said that this is the real beginning of the negotiating process. We must add that this new phase, which will be a determining factor for peace, will not be easy. Important military leaders and Arena's paramilitary apparatus have done everything possible so that the outcome of the conflict will be determined by the force of weapons and not by the result of political negotiations.

If important steps have been made in the field of negotiations, it is expected that [words indistinct].

Nuclear Cooperation Accord With Iran Signed

FL0110134891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The delegation of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission [CEA] has ended its visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran with the signing of a cooperation program among various scientific institutions in the two countries for the 1992-1993 period. The accord marks the beginning of closer cooperation between the two countries. The accord was signed by CEA Secretary Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart and Reza Amrollahi, the president of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization.

Defense Committees Increase 'People's Vigilance'

PA2709210391 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2230 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 26 Sep (DPA)—Vicente Pineda, deputy coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) stated today that this organization has increased the "people's vigilance" against the enemies of the revolution.

During a press conference assembled on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of this organization, Pineda stated that the CDR, commonly known as "the eyes and ears of the revolution," is in place to "act in accordance with the strategic task of our people: to save the country, the revolution, and socialism."

Pineda added that the more than 7.5 million members of the CDR, who represent more than 90 percent of the Cuban population older than 14 years, are convinced that the island "will emerge victorious" from the current critical situation and external persecution.

He also pointed out that the CDR, considered by its critics as a repressive control structure against internal dissent, has been able to obtain a more responsible participation of the population in the mission of "the war of all the people," which is the name assigned to the Cuban defensive doctrine.

Bahamas

Government Considers Haitian Coup 'Tragedy'

FL0210180091 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Bahamas Government issued a statement yesterday regarding the coup against Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. It says the government considers the military coup against the president and the forced exile of this democratically elected leader of Haiti a tragedy for our hemisphere and a cruel betrayal of the legitimate aspirations of the Haitian people.

The government also stated that the international community could have done more to nurture the seeds of

change and reform in Haiti. But once again, with the tension diverted elsewhere, its efforts have been too little too late.

Illegal Workers Talks Complicated

FL0310161491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1551 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Nassau, the Bahamas, Oct 3, CANA—The Bahamas Government is worried that events in Haiti have complicated crucial negotiations with the country over the issue of illegal immigration. In a statement issued by the Bahamas Information Services, the government said the forced exile of Haiti's democratically elected leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide was "a tragedy for our hemisphere and a cruel betrayal of the legitimate aspirations of the Haitian people."

"Clearly, the international community should have done more to nurture the seeds of change and reform in Haiti, but once again with attention diverted elsewhere its efforts have been too little too late," the statement said.

The Bahamian Government said the coup had complicated negotiations with Haiti on illegal immigration. "We trust, however, that the process through which we have sort of stemmed the tide of illegal Haitian refugees to our shores will continue and that a definitive solution to this vexing problem will be achieved as a matter of urgent priority."

Earlier this month, the Haitian Government had agreed to accept the return of illegal immigrants following two days of talks with the Bahamas Government. The Haitian Government had also agreed to put into immediate effect plans for voluntary and assisted repatriation and to share costs. The Bahamas has a population of 250,000 and an estimated 50,000 Haitians live in the country, most of them illegally.

Dominican Republic

Haiti Coup Seen as 'Unfortunate,' 'Predictable'

FL0210191791 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Station editorial: "Facing a Fait Accompli"]

[Text] Although we regret it, since it represents another failure for democracy in Haiti, the fall of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was predictable by virtue of his obvious inexperience in that art of give and take called politics. It is a curious historic fact that the fall of the recently overthrown Haitian president compares with the events experienced by the Dominican Republic during the seven-month-long administration of Professor Juan Bosch. Both were inaugurated in February, and both ceased to be head of state seven months later, precisely during the last week of September.

Politics is an art. It is not a skill that can be learned the way you learn to play the violin. To successfully conduct politics, a number of talents are necessary. It is not possible for all presidential candidates to have these talents. In terms of governing, to preserve is to stabilize. To stabilize is to balance, to even out what is uneven. This job is not suitable for impatient people, much less for amateurs. Politics is the aptitude and vocation of those who can do it because they have the abilities to do it, not because they were predestined to it but because they are the right person at the right time. It is an unavoidable duty.

This is the specific case of Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, who has never claimed to pull off miracles nor set off fireworks with unproven theories. He is a politician who acts without demagogic excesses but is not stopped by imponderables. Balaguer has been, with an effectiveness that has no precedent in the history of our republic, the pioneer of a national destiny which is destined to be recorded in our history as a source of inspiration and behavior. The political situation in Haiti is very unfortunate after the recent interruption of the democratic process that was recently begun by the Presidency of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. It is even more unfortunate if one has become convinced that there is no statesman in that neighboring country who has the qualities that Dr. Balaguer has shown in our country. In any case, what has happened there belongs to what in international language would be called the internal affairs of the Republic of Haiti. We can only hope that, within the range of the possible, the final solution will be the best one for the lifestyle and particular characteristics of that brother country.

Senate Condemns Coup

FL0210190791 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Resolutions condemning the military coup in Haiti have been proposed by Senators Carlos Alberto Maran Simbare of the Dominican Liberation Party and Augusto Felix Matos of the Reformist Party. The resolutions were approved by the three major party blocs which dominate the Senate. Another resolution which was approved provides for the continued improvement of working and living conditions of sugarcane cutters whether they are Dominican or from other nations. This resolution, which advocates legislative measures which will guarantee the rights of sugarcane workers, was proposed by Reformist Party Senator Augusto Felix Matos.

Moreover, the Senate Justice Commission recommended, through reports presented in yesterday's sessions, the judges who will sit on the courts of appeal in San Francisco de Macoris and the final courts [camaras finales] in Santo Domingo.

Border With Haiti, Airport Remain Closed

PA0210221291 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Santo Domingo, 2 Oct (AFP)—Government sources in Santo Domingo have reported that the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the two nations which share the Caribbean island Hispaniola, has remained closed for the third consecutive day. The Port-au-Prince Airport is also closed and flights from Santo Domingo were unable to land.

The Dominican Republic rejected the coup staged by General Raoul Cedras, because Dominican conservative President Joaquin Balaguer refused to express an opinion on the event.

Dominican Foreign Minister Juan Taveras, who flew to Washington to meet with colleagues of the OAS, although he regretted the overthrow of a constitutional government, justified Balaguer saying that "the situation is very delicate."

On 1 October, leftist opposition leader Juan Bosch accused the government of favoring the coup in the neighboring country by tolerating the presence of Duvalierist politicians on Dominican territory for years.

Guy Alexandre, Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic, has said that "the military coupist group" in his country today failed in their attempt to have the Haitian parliament meet "to give their action legality."

Haiti

Continued Reports on Military Coup, Aftermath

Cedras Says OAS Ruling 'Mistake'

PA0210205391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1953 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by Michel Lemisere]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Oct (EFE)—On 2 October, General Raoul Cedras, who led the coup against the Haitian president said it would be a mistake if the OAS sent a multinational force to restore the constitutional government. He ruled out the possibility that Jean-Bertrand Aristide will return to the country.

Cedras said the deployment of a military force to Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, would resolve nothing and would instead cause more problems.

In a news conference at Army Headquarters, the coupist leader said that no power has the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Haiti.

He denied that the soldiers who arrested Aristide stated they were going to murder him, but he admitted it was possible some officers may have mistreated him.

In addition, he explained that when Aristide was taken to Army Headquarters, he intervened to guarantee the physical integrity of the president.

He reiterated that he has no intention of remaining in power, he denied he was a bloodthirsty man and is known as a moderate officer, and said he has never ordered anyone killed.

During the news conference, Cedras presented an officer from the Haitian Navy, who was supposedly tortured by the Aristide regime after being accused of plotting against state security.

Cedras confirmed the death of the former Interior Minister during the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier, Roger Lafontant, who according to him, was executed by a captain whose last name is Douras and who was in charge of the prison where the former Duvalierist cabinet member was serving a life sentence for staging a coup attempt against former President Ertha Pascal Trouillot on 7 January 1991.

He added that Lafontant's body is at the hospital morgue at the University of Haiti.

Gen. Cedras stated that when the coup rumors started on 29 September, Aristide called the prison commander to take appropriate measures. He denied that the prison was empty as was reported after the coup.

He also insisted that no member of Aristide's cabinet is under arrest and he announced that the director of Radio National, Michel Favard, was released last night by the authorities.

Cedras Says Aristide Cannot Return

PA0210180591 Paris AFP in Spanish 1705 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Oct 2 (AFP)—Haitian Army Commander General Raoul Cedras held a news conference at the Port-au-Prince General Army Headquarters on 2 October. He stated that he sees "no possibilities of Father Aristide's return to Haiti after what has happened."

Gen. Cedras vigorously denied "that there has been a coup d'etat" in Haiti and said that "the entire Army and not just a small part of the Army" supports the movement that resulted in the toppling of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Gen. Cedra said he will accept the decision of the parliament, which is to meet on 2 October. He added that if the parliament favors the return of President Aristide "then there will be other negotiations." He pointed out that "I have never ordered the soldiers to shoot at the people and I never will."

Cedras: Aristide Ordered Lafontant Killed

PA0210173991 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Oct (AFP)—The bloody corpse of Dr. Roger Lafontant, former chief of the Tontons Macoutes and former adviser of Jean-Claude Duvalier, was shown to several newsmen, including an AFP correspondent, on Wednesday at the morgue of the general hospital here.

The former Duvalier supporter, wearing blue pajamas and easily identifiable because of his bald head, had several shots in the hand and chest, which exited through the back.

During a news conference in the general headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces, General Raoul Cedras, citing the officer who was in charge of the national penitentiary where Lafontant was imprisoned, said the order to kill him was given the night of 29 September by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and confirmed by Chief of Police Colonel Pierre Cherubin.

"It's you or him," Father Aristide had said. The order was confirmed by Cherubun and carried out by a soldier who executed Lafontant, who headed the coup on 7 January.

A well-informed source had announced the release of Roger Lafontant by rebel troops.

Preval Denies Execution Ordered

PA0210181991 Paris AFP in Spanish 1651 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Oct (AFP)—Haitian Prime Minister Rene Preval today categorically denied to AFP that President Jean- Bertrand Aristide ordered the execution of Dr. Roger Lafontant, former chief of the Tonton Macoutes.

General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Army, during a news conference today said that President Aristide ordered the execution of Lafontant, which his Police Chief Colonel Pierre Cherubin confirmed.

"Gen. Felon's statement is false," Preval said as he formally denied that President Aristide submitted his resignation in writing.

A resignation letter handwritten in Creole and allegedly written by President Aristide was shown to AFP by the Army commander after the news conference.

Article 148 of the Constitution, which states that the Council of Ministers headed by the prime minister will exercise power in the temporary absence of the president, Preval claims "recognizes the will of the people."

The prime minister finally said that "the struggle will continue until constitutional legitimacy is restored, that is, until President Aristide returns to Haiti."

Chamber Rejects Foreign Intervention

FL0310031091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in French 2115 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Message to the nation issued by the Chamber of Deputies in the Legislative Palace, Port-au-Prince, on 2 October, read by Deputy Lamour Jean-Baptiste—live or recorded]

[Text] Message to the nation. The Chamber of Deputies denounces the event that led to the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and fully share the suffering of the families bereaved by human blindness, passion, and emotion. It condemns the tragic death of Pastor Silvio Claude, founding chairman of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, who will forever be regarded by all Haitian patriots as a symbol of the resistance put up by (?democrats) against the Duvalier and neo-Duvalier dictatorship. In these tragic circumstances, the Chamber of Deputies, which is aware of the historic mission assigned to it by the Constitution strongly condemns:

A. [Words indistinct] blind action from any quarter likely to cause the death of Haitian citizens—whether by necklacing [pere lebrun] or by lethal weapons.

B. Any statement calling for or endorsing intervention in our common fatherland by a foreign or multinational force.

C. The repeated violation of the Constitution.

It calls on the Army to carry out its constitutional mission of protecting the lives and property of the citizens. It also appeals to the people to be calm and vigilant and to refrain from any acts of provocation likely to aggravate the crisis.

Lastly, the Chamber of Deputies, which has the constitutional duty to manage the crisis in the best interest of the nation, is prepared to listen to suggestions, proposals, recommendations, and desiderata from the various quarters affected by the crisis. A crisis commission has been set up to collect data and make the necessary contacts for the rational handling of the crisis. All measures inspired by the Constitution—and only the Constitution—will be taken with courage and lucidity in order to facilitate the return to constitutional order.

Long live the fatherland! Long live the Constitution! Long live democracy!

[Signed] Lamour Jean-Baptiste on behalf of the Chamber of Deputies.

Preval Sends 'Message' to People

PA0210184591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1650 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Oct (EFE)—Haitian Prime Minister Rene Preval has sent a message to the Haitian

people condemning the military coup that toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Monday. EFE has gained access to this message.

Preval, in a message sent to the Agence Haitienne du Presse (AHP), described the coup led by General Raoul Cedras, chief of the Armed Forces, and a sector of the Haitian Army as inconsiderate.

He said that after "this decision was rejected by part of the Haitian Army, which is nothing but a decentralized service of the Interior and Defense Ministries, the president was forced to leave the country temporarily."

Aristide arrived in Venezuela on 1 October aboard Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' presidential aircraft. He traveled on 2 October to Washington to participate in an urgent meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Preval recalled that President Aristide was elected democratically in the 16 December 1990 elections. "Nobody can violate with impunity the foundation of the Haitian nation: the Constitution of 1987, which was ratified by virtually all the people," the Haitian prime minister added.

Preval reminded the Haitian Army, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, the Court of Appeals (Supreme Tribunal), active sectors, all Haitian representatives around the world, and all international organizations of Article 148 of the Haitian Constitution. The article states that if the president "is temporarily unable to exercise his duties, the Council of Ministers chaired by the Prime Minister will be in charge of the executive branch while the impediment lasts."

"In accordance with this article and while we wait for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to lead the country, only the Council of Ministers led by the prime minister can be in charge of the executive branch while the impediment lasts."

"Any other form of government that some may attempt to establish in Haiti constitutes a disgrace. The Haitian people categorically reject it," Preval's message states.

The prime minister said that the military officers carried out a coup against a government that was elected at the polls last year. The coup has resulted in the death of "dozens of innocent victims and created an atmosphere of terror and frustration throughout the national territory."

Unofficial sources estimate that at least 100 persons were killed in the coup against Aristide, a former Salesian priest.

Preval Says Council Assumes Power

FL0210214191 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1920 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Statement by Prime Minister Rene Preval on military takeover; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] I am Rene Preval, the Haitian prime minister. On the night of 29 September, a group of soldiers took up arms in an attempt to frustrate the 16 December victory. They burned, killed, devastated, and destroyed. General Raoul Cedras thought that with guns they could weaken the peoples' determination by forcing President Aristide to leave the country.

The government reminds the putschists that anyone who has tried to tamper with the 1987 Constitution has failed in their attempt. This was true of Namphy, Manigat, and Prosper Avril. The government reminds the Haitian Army, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, the Court of Cassation, and all national institutions and international organizations, that under Article 148, if the president is unable to execute his duties, the Council of Ministers, chaired by the prime minister, shall assume the executive power.

This means that pending the president's return, the prime minister will embody the government's executive power. Any other type of government set up in this country is unconstitutional, and will not be tolerated by the Haitian people, who will with legality reject it. Rene Preval, prime minister of Haiti.

Hospital Reports 50 Dead

PA0210191491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Oct (AFP)—At least 50 bodies of persons killed by gunfire are in the morgue of the general hospital here, an anonymous hospital worker told AFP.

According to hospital sources, the previous death toll from Sunday's military coup in Haiti was at least 30 dead and 200 injured.

Most of the victims were taken to the general hospital, which is full.

It is not known if other victims were taken to other hospitals of the capital.

Firearms' Licenses Suspended

FL0210174691 Port-au-Prince RTNH Television in French 1515 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Press release issued by the Metropolitan Zone Military Division in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces inform the public at large that all firearms' licenses are hereby suspended until further notice. However, the licenses provided to

those holding elective office—senators, deputies, mayors, and Casec [Communal Section Administrative Council] remain valid. Any violation of the present measure will be punished in accordance with the law.

BBC: No Government in Haiti, Only 'Iron Fist'

FL0310144291 London BBC World Service in English 1350 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Interview with "free-lance journalist" Mike Norton in Port-au-Prince, by unidentified announcer, 3 October--recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] We asked Mike Norton, who is in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, how the coup leaders are likely to react to the Organization of American States' resolution.

[Norton] The coup leaders are going to pass the hot potato of power as quickly as possible to some other structure. It is not going to last. This is something rather important to underline—in the resolutions of the OAS they spoke of a military junta, the military junta must step down they said. Aristide himself said, in Washington, that they must leave the Presidential Palace. Well, I wonder if it is news to them—were they being emotional, or did they, [rephrases] do they realize they are not in the Presidential Palace, for one. And most important of all—that there is no military junta. There is no government. There is no political power. There is military force holding the country with iron hoops so that it does not explode, but it will explode in a day or two. So the problem, really, for the coup leaders, the military leaders now is to get rid of that hot potato as quickly as possible and to collaborate with the legislature, the Parliament, and find some way out of this for them and for the country.

[Announcer] Are you saying, then, Mike, that there is nobody in charge in Haiti at the moment?

[Norton] I am saying that there is an iron fist, an iron heel, on the throat of Haiti, but there is no government. No, there is no government. Nobody is in political control in Haiti.

[Announcer] So what is the situation like now in the capital? Is life beginning to return to normal?

[Norton] It has always been abnormal and it is still abnormal, but in a different way. Today, people will probably go out into the streets a little bit more. They started going out into the streets yesterday to buy things, buy supplies, groceries, etc. Will the stores open? Perhaps later on in the day. People are sniffing around. That is how it works here—calling people, the grapevine is their security. There has been no shooting. I think that is important. There was the night before, much, much, much [repeats] shooting, you know, warning shots from the police, here, there and elsewhere, in their barracks and on the streets. That does not seem to be the case [today]. But I do not notice near my own residence much traffic, nor many people going down. I think wearily people are going to test the moving sands of Haitian daily life.

Aristide UN General Assembly Address

FL2709193091 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French 26-27 Sep 91 pp 1, 3, 6-8

[Address by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September]

[Text] Mr. Chairman; Mr. Secretary General; ladies and gentlemen; dear friends of the 46th regular session of the General Assembly: I am glad to greet you on behalf of the Haitian people whose hearts are beating to the rhythm of freedom, in pride and dignity. Freedom gained! Pride recaptured! Dignity resuscitated!

Beyond the horizon, a nation smiles happily to greet you in a lavalas [avalanche] manner. Beyond the horizon, the voice of the Haitian people is raised, happy to be united with the United Nations, happy to be here in the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman: While the echo of thousands of Haitian voices is being heard, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the 46th regular session of the General Assembly. Your exceptional qualities and rich experience in the management of international problems certainly rekindles the fire of hope.

Mr. Chairman: I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to your distinguished predecessor, Guido de Marco, who presided over the UN General Assembly in a wise and competent manner. I also pay great tribute to the courage and patience of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose mandate is unfortunately coming to an end in a few months. Undoubtedly, he has been able to enforce with much skill and clearsightedness the regulations enshrined in the UN Charter. To a great extent, the current trust enjoyed by the United Nations may be credited to him. This leading Latin American diplomat will be remembered for a long time to come.

I am talking to you now, dear Latin American friends, [in Spanish] I embrace you fraternally, dear Latin American friends and comrades! As you know, we share the same experience of struggle against the trafficking of man by man, the struggle for the advent of an era of peace and total liberation throughout the whole Latin American continent. Comrades, brothers, and sisters, we were united yesterday, and we are still united today because in a democratic environment victory will certainly be ours! Prompted by those linguistic ties, I will, with your permission, add a few notes—just a few—to this symphony of languages.

[In English] I am convinced that English speakers are happy to hear Haitian voices convey greetings to them, are they not? Fantastic! Here we are together along the path of democracy, fighting against all forms of injustice

and against exploitation. I am convinced the world will become better. Let us move forward together while strengthening our solidarity.

Indeed, many of our African and Arab brothers speak English. This will, however, not prevent us from using Lingala to tell Africans: [In Lingala] I greet all Africans. Long live African-Haitian solidarity! Let us revive our bonds with Africa and return to our roots. Solidarity! Hand in hand! I like Africa and I invite Africans to come to Haiti. [In Swahili] I like Africa!

I will also speak in Arabic to our Arab brothers and sisters. [In Arabic] How are you? Are you fine? I am very happy. Blessed be the name of the Lord! May peace be with you!

For peace in the Middle East, I open my heart to the Jews with these words of peace. [In Hebrew] May peace be with you. Blessed be the name of Yaveh. I spent three years in Israel, I learned your language and now I am quite happy to tell you on behalf of my people: May peace be with you all. We have the opportunity to achieve a lot of good things together. However, we cannot afford time today to examine them all. May such a time come. Blessed be the name of Yaveh!

We cannot turn our eyes on Germany and Italy, without saying [in German] Good evening! How are you? Together we are strong. We have many things to achieve and of course we will always march in harmony toward democracy.

Already, I can feel an eloquent silence and the question: What about Italy? [In Italian] Let us hear an Italian note! There it comes! Better late than never. It would have been difficult for me to forget my friends, especially when I think that many of them are currently working for peace. We have already said it a thousand times to each and everyone and today, we will say it to you again: To talk of peace is also to talk of the people. This is why we are happy to be with you. Let us move forward!

[In Creole] Guess which language is now coming into the United Nations? A beautiful language, a very beautiful language. There are not two such languages. This is Creole, our Creole. I saved it for last because "the last shall be first."

Yes! Let us proceed. Let us proceed with all the peoples of the United Nations for a better tomorrow. Indeed, this decade begins with events likely to determine the future of humanity and it naturally raises hope and questions. The 46th session of the UN General Assembly, we believe, crystallizes a period of deep thinking for the international community. Contrary to the previous periods, this session is taking place at a time of profound upheavals which are significantly modifying the geopolitical axes of the planet.

The dialectic of a "bipolar" policy prompts this question in the international community: What about the succession and the devolution of the USRR seat in the General Assembly and on the UN Security Council? What about worldwide democracy? On this, will depend the future of the geopolitical axes which should in no way crystallize a totalitarian and absolute power.

While the international community worries about the geopolitical modification of the planet's main lines, let us speak of our dear Haiti, the rebellious and faithful daughter. It is rebellious to all imperialistic dictates. Yes, we said this daughter is rebellious to all imperialistic dictates, but faithful to all democratic prescriptions. Thus, we will especially speak of 10 luminous landmarks called the 10 democratic commands arising from our democratic praxis. Yes, our message will be limited to this democratic field where the 10 luminous landmarks called the 10 democratic commands stand straight in front of us.

First landmark or first democratic command: Freedom or death. As you know, Haiti was one of the first beacons of freedom in the Western Hemisphere. In 1791, we offered the world the first slave revolution which allowed hundreds of thousands of black people to free themselves from the yoke of repression. The leaders of this victorious revolution helped to fund Simon Bolivar's liberation crusade in South America. Slavery was first abolished in Haiti. That was a giant step. That was a giant step toward the liberation of mankind. The roots of the Declaration of Human Rights arose from the Haitian revolution. The Haiti of Boukman, Dessalines, and Toussaint [three national heroes] is and remains the first black republic of the world. Haiti shone in all eyes like a star. We have always remembered with pride our ancestors' unprecedented exploits in our history which is often glorious and sometimes troubled. Far from sinking into a sterile past, the cries of freedom or death, freedom or death continually ring out in the hearts of the people who have become a free nation forever.

Throughout our march toward 1991, despite our contribution to the free world, Haiti has not managed to open all the doors of the international community. The colonialists of this time and their allies were afraid of freedom, as were our leaders and the traditional oligarchy. From the white colonial rule to the black colonial rule, we had to break the yoke of black dictators and their international allies.

Fortunately, in 1986, to the general surprise, the Haitian people overthrew a 30-year dictatorial regime. That was the beginning of the end of a dictatorship whose marks are indelible. The more these marks challenge us, the louder we shout: Freedom or death, freedom or death.

2. Second landmark or second democratic command—Democracy or death.

After overthrowing the repressive Duvalier regime on 7 February 1986 following a long and courageous struggle, the people of Charlemagne Peralte [Haitian leader who opposed American occupation] only had one course of action: To definitively establish a democratic regime in Haiti. In view of that, freedom or death means nothing

but democracy or death. We therefore waged a fierce struggle for the conquest of our rights from the minority groups which assumed power after 1986. Our struggle was fierce and legitimate because the regime did not work toward changing the nature of the state which, for a long time, had created conditions for the perpetuation of the status quo and the functioning of the exploitative and repressive machinery.

Eventually, on 16 December 1990, thanks to the heroic courage of the Haitian people and thanks to your contribution, we held free, honest, and democratic elections for the first time. Glory be to our ancestors, who had already thwarted colonial designs at the beginning of the 19th century! Bravo to the international community! Bravo to the United Nations and let us applaud it!

Yes, this was a grand premiere! For the very first time in our history—for a change—in a well inspired tactical move, a people achieved their revolution through the ballot box. The election in the first round of a president of the Republic by over 70 percent of the vote is a triple symbol: The people's victor! The people's power! And the people's demands.

In sum, these free, honest, and democratic elections are the result of a political strategy specific to us, that is the historic advent of the lavalas movement. We struggled in a lavalas manner. We won in a lavalas manner! We are moving forward in a lavalas manner!

Our motto reads: Unity is might. As we said once, one cannot eat the soup of elections with the fork of divisions. Similarly, one cannot eat the soup of democracy with the fork of divisions. "Fouchet divizyon pa bwe soup demokrasi." [repeat in Creole as published]

We struggled in a lavalas manner! We won in a lavalas manner! We are moving forward in a lavalas manner. In a way, the lavalas strategy falls in line with the thinking of the pope, who, in his encyclical letter Centessimus Annus, hinted that the events in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union are paving the way for the reaffirmation of "the positive nature of a genuine theology of man's total liberation." In Haiti, that theological approach cannot be limited to a mere analysis of the reality. It is more a method of thought and action for use in the school of poverty, the ideal ground for the revelation of God, the historic motivation behind the struggle for man's total integration.

Though nurtured and inspired by liberation theology, the pedagogy of the democratic praxis develops and evolves around the experiences of the poor. The dialectic to be developed between liberation theology and the policy of liberation hinges necessarily on the experience of the poor.

When Jean-Paul Sartre, in his criticism of Hegel, states that the latter overlooks the fact that emptiness implies the absence of something, we, liberation theologians, should proclaim that the emptiness experienced by the poor is not the absence of the essential, but it is a yearning—yearning for liberation. The emptiness experienced by the poor is the signal of legitimate expectations, the essence of which dwells on their minds. The poor live and keep democracy alive. It is incumbent upon us, who have been elected democratically, to be loyal and alive to their rights.

3. Third landmark or third democratic command—Faithfulness to human rights.

If mankind has duties, it certainly has rights as well. Rights to respect and rights to enforce. Rights to be guaranteed so that a state of law can be eventually established.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is, and remains, sacred. It is our weighty responsibility to faithfully observe the Constitution in order to "guarantee our inalienable and inviolable rights to life, freedom, and quest for happiness" in compliance with our 1804 Independence Act and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The respect of the Constitution in order to "constitute a socially just, economically free, and politically independent Haitian nation." The respect of the Constitution in order to establish an ideological multiparty system and political alternatives, to strengthen national unity, to eliminate discriminations between cities and countries, to ensure the harmonious separation and sharing of powers between the executive, the judiciary, and the Parliament in order to establish a governmental regime based on fundamental freedoms and the respect of human rights, the concerted action, and the participation of all the people in the great decisions committing the national life through a real decentralization.

4. Fourth landmark or fourth democratic command—Right to eat and to work.

It is obvious that the right to eat naturally falls within the frame of human rights. The reality of a starving person straightaway accuses both the oppressor and the authorities responsible for enforcing the inalienable and inviolable right to life because he is exploited. In Haiti, the victims of the axes of international exploitation can hardly find anything to eat because they are eaten by the axes of international exploitation.

"The entire international community allocates over $500 billion annually, that is $1.4 billion daily, to the arms race. An end could be put to hunger in the world for several years with only 15 days of these expenditures."

The drama confronting a starving man is not a consequence of lack of food, but a consequence of social injustice. Working, working again, always working. That is what he needs to earn his living by the sweat of his brow." [quotation mark as published]

Some have showed that if the manufacturing of one B-1 bomber were replaced by the building of housing costing the same price, 70,000 jobs would be created. How can one justify the fact that the land cultivated by 71 percent

of Haitian farmers is less than 1.29 hectares each? How can one justify the fact that over two-thirds of the arable land in the country belongs to 30 percent of the richest landowners?

We must certainly transcend the traditional indifference of the dominant political and economical sectors to demand the respect of the right to eat and to work. Everyone should work for a civilization of work and thus cut off the roots of hunger. The hunger of one man is mankind's hunger.

To go beyond the border of words, let us assess our actual achievements since 7 February 1991:

As early as 7 February, the lavalas government began to put things right in the public administration. The state's resources have considerably increased. During the last four months of the preceding government, the fiscal and customs receipts had reached a monthly average of 86.8 million gourdes whereas our lavalas government collected 122.9 million [currency not specified] for the first four months, with a marked upward trend (June 137.6 million) [as published]. Concerning the expenditures, the former government spent 164.7 million gourdes in November 1990; the lavalas government spent only 86 millions in June 1991. The public funds have also showed a positive balance of 41 million gourdes for the first time in a long time.

The increase of food production proves to be essential. Thus, to reach this goal, we are going to implement the land reform provided for by the Constitution (Article 248) [as published] and to provide the necessary training facilities for the peasants so they can produce.

The private sector's participation is essential for the creation of job-intensive enterprises. Contrary to the past, when illicit practices allowed certain sectors to plunder the country to the detriment of most of the people, our lavalas government sees to it that the rights of all are respected; the right to invest in accordance with the Constitutional clauses; the right to work for the human and economic growth.

Dear friends and investors from abroad: Haiti already, Haiti cordially and warmly says—welcome to you.

5. Fifth landmark or fifth democratic command—Right to claim our due, or "What belongs to us is ours; and what belongs to us is not yours." [Creole saying]

The Haitian people have made a remarkable and exceptional contribution to the democratic struggle which has been raging all over the world for the past five years. At the junction of the democratic wave from Eastern Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, and Central and South America, a democratic avalanche christened lavalas emerged in our country. No democratic nation can exist in isolation, without developing worldwide geopolitical, diplomatic, and economic bonds.

Today, we place our right to claim our due in the context of that network of relations in which we partly acknowledge the fruit of a rich but impoverished past and partly recognize the aftermath of a present frought with exploitation full of hope. This can materialize because it is possible to reconcile our colonial past with our present democracy. Heracleitus of Ephesus once wrote rightly: "The men who are awake share the same world, but those who are asleep have their own individual world."

Fellow Haitians awake, our world is one of justice. Justice for everyone, justice for us, who have too often suffered social injustices! Let us explore the skyline of this world of justice until the impoverished can shout democratically: "One seeks good in vain and finds evil without seeking."

Convinced that "the spirit keeps the mass moving," [in Latin] and in line with our policy, we will remain fully alive to the masses whose voices are demanding our due in respect and dignity. I am referring to the treatment meted out to many of our Haitian sisters and brothers living abroad.

6. Sixth landmark or sixth democratic command—Legitimate defense of the diaspora also called the 10th Department

Haunted up until 1991 by the indiscriminate brutality of the machinery of repression and exploitation which was elevated to the status of an antidemocratic system, our Haitian brothers and sisters have not always experienced the pleasure of finding the promised land. They are described as illegal immigrants because no torturer can give his victims duly signed certificates of torture. [sentence as published] Illegal immigrants because they had been forced to travel as boat people [preceding two words in English as published] or without legal documents. They have, however, contributed significantly to the economic prosperity of their employers who prefer to hire these workers who are always ready to do their masters' bidding.

What can one say about those of our brothers and sisters who are being detained in Krome? [U.S. detention center near Miami, Florida] And those detained elsewhere? For democracy's sake, is there no way we can look into their cases and turn their sorrows into joy?

In order to encourage the concerned authorities to direct their current steps toward this very expected joy, we, the Haitian Government, are continually fighting against fraudulent practices and the obtaining of forged visas on Haitian territory.

Mr. President: If we express ourselves in these words for our community's welfare at the 46th regular session of the UN General Assembly, we make it a point to denounce in the face of all mankind the blatant violation of the rights of the Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. Although we acknowledge the Dominican Republic's sovereignty, we must forcefully protest this violation of human rights. Haiti and the Dominican

Republic are two wings of the same bird: Two nations that share the beautiful island of Hispaniola. Being the echo of the voices of all victims whose rights are flouted, committed to respect human rights in spite of the social problems and the financial difficulties provoked by this forced repatriation, we make it a point to respect the two wings of the bird. The reception that Haiti offers to all men and women who come across the border—we mean Haitians and Dominicans—is a testimony of that.

Standing by the underprivileged minorities, we demand compensation for the Dominican-born citizens and the Haitians of origin as well as for the Haitian citizens who have been the victims of this repatriation. Arrested and expelled to Haitian territory, they are generally homeless, jobless, and wihtout families. Optimistic estimates already assess the number of repatriates at over 50,000. Hoping that the concerned international authorities will help us enforce fundamental human rights, already and solemnly, we claim with pride and dignity: Never again! Never again shall our Haitian brothers and sisters be sold to transform their blood into bitter sugar. Bitter sugar is not acceptable. The unacceptable shall not be accepted. Never again! Never again shall our Haitian brothers and sisters be sold to transform their blood into bitter sugar.

7. Seventh landmark or seventh democratic command—no to violence, yes to lavalas [subhead]

A political revolution without weapons in 1991? Is it possible? Yes! Unbelievable, but true. The lavalas pedagogy, tactical and strategic convergence of the democratic forces, pleads for unity against violence. Overwhelming victory! Historical surprise!

In an environment of poverty, nonviolent pedagogy encourages unity, victory of institutionalized nonviolence. After 1804, the year of our first independence, 1991 inaugurates the era of our second independence.

Can any democratic nation remain indifferent to such a victory of nonviolence, precisely where structures of economic violence are still prevailing? Is it legitimate to put the patience of the victims of economic violence to the test? If politics remains within the test of strength, likewise economics remains within the test of interest.

The capital of nonviolence that the Haitian masses have already invested implies, due to regained peace, considerable economic interest. A simple socio-psychological approach would tell a great deal. As a matter of fact, the less the individual as a member of society is assaulted by oligarchic sclerosis, the greater psychological, political, and economic health he will enjoy.

Nonviolent pedagogy should constitute an attitude that can give birth to collective awareness toward our land of nonviolence. May the sun of nonviolence shine where the cannons of violence rumble, in an avalanche manner

8. Eighth landmark or eighth command—Loyalty to mankind, our ideal wealth

Speaking of mankind as the ideal wealth can imply forgetting gold, petroleum, greenbacks, and so on. Far from it, there are various kinds of riches. According to some specialists, America's hydroelectric potential could provide more energy than all the petroleum used in the world if it were totally exploited.

All these riches should be at the service of mankind, the mainspring around which the lavalas policy revolves. So, we are ready to demonstrate our loyalty to it, embracing all that can favor its full development. Thus, the harmonious relations already developed with the Caribbean Common Market [Caricom] falls within this frame of Caribbean solidarity in order to best champion human welfare. We are also working on the growth of South-South relations with our Latin American neighbors. It is obvious that the South- South relations are not the sole important relation for Haiti. In fact, we share a political heritage with the United States whose independence reminds us of the memory of the Haitian pioneers who fought and died precisely for this independence. Like France, with which we also share the same political heritage, and the United States; other countries in North America; Europe; the Middle East; Africa, and in other parts of the world maintain with us a network of interdependent relations.

We extend our patriotic greetings to the Haitian men and women living in Cuba as well as to Cuba and its people for whom we wish peace and democratic growth. We want to extend these same wishes for peace and democratic growth to the Middle East and South Africa.

Over the past few years, the United Nations under Javier Perez de Cuellar has demonstrated its ability to find effective solutions to conflicts provided that it is given the necessary means. The cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, the independence of Namibia, and the beginning of a solution to the Western Sahara question bear witness to this. The fact that it reacted in compliance with its Charter when one of its member states was cruelly attacked by Iraqi forces on 2 August 1990 also bears witness to that. The way the conflict was managed certainly gave rise to legitimate reservations. Nevertheless, the role of the organization was not questioned in any way whatsoever. Yet, the Gulf crisis brought to the fore many pending questions.

We know that in spite of the efforts made by the United Nations, there are still areas in the world where divergent interests and lack of understanding among the peoples continue to fan inter- and intrastate conflicts.

United with the black people of Africa who now enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we take this opportunity to appeal to the international community, especially the industrial countries, not to lift the global sanctions imposed on the Pretoria regime. Diametrically opposed to apartheid, the Republic of Haiti is fighting so that the black majority in South Africa will fully

enjoy their rights in a multiracial and democratic society. Bravo Mandela! Honor to Mandela.

The Haitian Government has noted with satisfaction the cease-fire signed recently by the warring parties in the Western Sahara conflict and reiterates its support for the ongoing process. The suffering of one man is the suffering of mankind. In our daily political action, we strive to clearly prove our loyalty—loyalty to mankind.

9. Ninth landmark or ninth democratic command—Loyalty to our culture

The lavalas praxis fosters a network of cultures on the political stage. Resisting cultural alienation is a guarantee for the psychological health of the democratic fabric. As a matter of fact, any cultural suicide will result in the devitalization of the social entity and certainly threaten the democratic bodies. To live—and fully enjoy life—also implies seeking nutrition at the source of one's culture.

To live—and fully enjoy life—implies putting one's roots deep down into one's cultural source, which totally embraces the life of a people. That is an aspect of man's being which needs to be thoroughly explored. For us, that aspect implies a network of relations—multifaceted relations. Friedrich Nietzsche, who defines man as a means, and not as a goal, places him at the junction of acculturation and cultural enrichment. This involves a transmission of cultural seeds that may vivify or harm the essence of the being.

The germs of pathologic culpability transmitted at the contact between the so-called dominant-dominated cultures can only harm the democratic growth.

The lavalas policy tends to enhance the value of our cultural identity. We cannot democratically effect indepth changes without consistently taking into account the local values woven into our own sociocultural fabric.

"Our umbilical cord is connected with our roots. Our roots and our marrow are similar. To suck out our marrow is tantamount to cutting off our roots; and to cut off our roots is tantamount to assassinating our culture." [preceding in Creole as published]

This loyalty to mankind's culture invites us to share the concerns of the Kurdish people, the Palestinian people, the Jewish people, and the peoples of Iraq that are all very tied to their roots. In this perspective of respect, the Republic of Haiti is very pleased about the admission of the two Korea's within the United Nations.

The loyalty to our culture increases and prompts us to stimulate our critical sense in order to protect our culture's health against plagues such as illicit drug trafficking. The Haitian Government makes a point of recalling that an effective struggle against drug production also requires greater assistance to Latin American countries.

Concerning drug trafficking itself, it is important to recall that it is generated and sustained by the demand from the north. So, we should at all costs eliminate the incitement to production from consumers in the industrialized countries. Concerted actions among the countries in the south and those in the north and the United Nations will help make it possible to more effectively fight the scourge of the many types of drugs that have plagued our men and women.

10. Tenth landmark or tenth democratic command—All around the table

"Yes, all around the democratic table

Neither a minority at the table

Nor a majority under the table

But all around the table."

That is a historical schedule on the eve of 1992. Indeed, it is a real challenge to take up on the threshold of the third millenium.

Brothers and sisters of Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and so on, our past struggle against colonialism inevitably leads us to the establishment of deeper links throughout our march toward the democratic table.

A new social contract on the Caribbean, Latin American, and international scale proves to be necessary so that we meet one day around the democratic table.

We in Haiti have been heading toward this schedule since 16 December 1990, which was the date of the elections organized under the patronage of the United Nations.

It is time that getting into debt stop conditioning the transfer of net resources from our impoverished countries to the rich countries. In fact, between 1983 and 1988, the transfer of net resources to the so-called developed countries amounted to $115 billion. This transfer of resources has reached about 60 billion [currency not specified] for 1989 alone. These financial resources are very needed in the south countries for their economic growth.

Mr. Chairman: I hope that the fourth decade for development will produce concrete results within the framework of the new international order to be instituted.

At the end of the 20th century, the Republic of Haiti gives up absolute power, embraces participatory democracy, starts singing the hymn to liberty, pride, and dignity:.

"Freedom regained! Pride found again! Dignity resuscitated! At the end of the 20th century, the Republic of Haiti takes pride in hailing the unity of nations. United Nations. For a united world. United Nations. By united people." As for the Haitian People, we will hail once again their heroic courage by saying: "Better to perish with the people than to succeed without the people, But with the people, we can never experience defeat, therefore, victory will be ours!" [preceding five lines repeated in Creole] "Similarly, we believe in mankind. Where a

man is exploited. Call us. To your call, we will answer yes, 77 times: yes. To exploitation, we will answer no, 77 times: no. To defend human rights Such is the UN's mission." "We believe in peace. Where there is war, call us. To your call, we will answer yes, 77 times: yes. To war, we will answer no, 77 times: no. To guarantee peace. Such is the UN's mission." "We believe in people's fraternity. Where people are rejecting each other, call us To your call, we will answer yes, 77 times: yes. To rejection, we will answer no, 77 times: no. To be a place for dialogue. Such is the UN's mission." "We believe in the Haitian people. Where they are struggling in an avalanche manner, we are there and we will always be there. Better to perish with the people than to succeed without the people." "While the echo of this credo rings as a conclusion, may the echo of the democratic credo ring." "We believe in those ten democratic commands. We believe in this democratic policy. We believe in the meeting where there will not be. Nor a minority on the table, nor a majority under the table, but all around the democratic table." "So be it. In the name of the people, and their sons, and their Holy Ghost, Amen" "United, we are strong, united in the Caribbean. We are a power, united in the world. We are a power of peace, of justice, of love, and freedom." "Alone we are weak. Together we are strong. Tightly united, we are an avalanche."

St Lucia

Government Shelves Plans To Introduce CET

FL2109164391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1413 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Sept 21, CANA—St. Lucia, accusing some Caribbean Community (Caricom) member states of refusing to purchase its products, has announced the shelving of plans to introduce the Common External Tariff (CET).

"Our position stands. We will not (be) moving towards the CET unless we can sell our products.... within the region," Prime Minister John Compton said on the state-owned Radio St. Lucia on Friday night.

Caricom countries had agreed at their summit in Jamaica in 1990 to implement the CET, which provides a unified tax structure against third country imports by January 1, 1991. After some countries failed to meet the deadline, a new October 1 date was set. Compton said that while St. Lucia had said at the last Caricom summit in St. Kitts that it was willing to implement the CET by October 1, this was done on the basis that the concerns of the island were met. He said among the concerns were resolving the Caricom Air Agreement with Britain and establishing the proper machinery for the payment of the island's coconut oil on the regional market.

Compton said that three months after the St. Kitts summit, the mechanisms for payment "have not been put in place" and member countries were not purchasing oil from Castries. He said as a result the industry here was not now buying copra from growers for processing the oil.

"The concerns of St. Lucia have not been addressed.... what we said was that the whole thing was conditional, our agreement to meet the 1st of October date was conditioned on our concerns being met," Compton said.

"The whole thing of the CET was to give certain advantages to the larger countries in the industrialisation process and also to give certain benefits to the smaller countries.... The burden can not fall only on countries like ourselves and in light of this we have been very reluctant to rush into implementation," he added.

Regarding the Caricom multilateral air agreement with Britain, which had been held up because of Barbados' insistence on London not being allowed to set air fares unilaterally, Compton said the matter had been resolved, "though not in the way we would have liked it." He warned that unless his country saw "some signs that our concerns will be addressed we will not be implementing the CET."

"We have informed the Caricom secretary general, telling him we will not be rushing into it. We would be most reluctant to take any steps in this regard unless we see some moves to address the problems of St. Lucia," Compton remarked.

Compton said that St. Lucia was not the only country not implementing the CET by October 1, adding that Antigua and Barbuda had made a definite statement on its position.

"Even Trinidad and Tobago's position.... Is heavily qualified," he said.

Compton made no reference to the concerns of the private sector and the opposition St. Lucia Labour Party about the tariff. The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture had earlier urged the government to delay the CET by at least three months and also to make available a government-sponsored study of the CET on the cost of living here.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Human Rights Group Condemns Haitian Coup

FL0210202991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1527 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Oct 2, CANA—The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association has condemned Monday's coup in Haiti as a "usurpation of the democratic process."

The association called for the Haitian Army, which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to stop suppressing the popular will of the people.

"The human rights association calls for the cessation of the mass killings by the Army, and the human rights

abuses perpetrated on the indiscriminate shooting of civilians [as received] by the military which overthrew the eight-month government of Father Bertrand Aristide on Monday," it said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Foreign Minister Calls for End of Cuban Blockade

FL2309132391 Bridgetown CANA in English 0051 GMT 23 Sep 91

[From the Caribbean News Agency "News Summary"]

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago favours an end to the United States' 30-year-old economic embargo against Cuba.

Foreign minister, Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, told CANA that his government "is strongly persuaded in this direction and we could only hope for a united response on the issue by our Caricom partners".

Barbados, which currently holds the chair for the standing committee of Caricom foreign ministers, is also reported to be in favour of the lifting of the embargo.

El Salvador

Arena Gives Scpport to Cristiani, Armed Forces

PA0310010491 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] The ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) on 29 September reiterated its support for the government of President Alfredo Cristiani and the Armed Forces in their struggle to defend the nation. This was stated at the assembly during which Armando Calderon Sol was reelected president of the party.

Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, Arena's top leader and founder, said that "we will continue struggling with our people for the benefit of our fatherland." He added that in a new phase of its political strategy, Arena will work "shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand" with the government.

The meeting, held within the framework of Arena's 10th anniversary, was attended by President Alfredo Cristiani, Vice President Francisco Merino, ambassadors accredited to El Salvador, representatives of the UN Observers for El Salvador, and hundreds of party members.

The presence of Ciro Cruz Zepeda and Carlos Remberto Gonzalez, leaders of the National Conciliation Party, and leftist leaders Ruben Zamora and Aguinada Carranza was surprising. The latter could not hide their displeasure when Arena's anthem was played and many of those present gestured with their thumbs down while shouting: "El Salvador will be the tomb where the Reds will end" and "Yes to the fatherland, no to communism."

In his usual style, D'Aubuisson reiterated his party's support to President Cristiani's peace efforts. He added that Cristiani will "pass on his seat to another Arena member" at the end of his term.

Then he announced that there will be a march soon to support President Cristiani's government. He also proposed naming the Ceiba tree "the Tree of Peace" symbolizing the peace consolidated during the Arena administration.

"We support our president, because he is complying with Arena's three main objectives: peace, progress, and liberty," he stressed.

He also asked the members of his party to support and back the Salvadoran Army, because "they are the heroes who have saved the fatherland in the military field, while we did our part in the political field."

He also announced the beginning of what he described as "a moral war," which will consist of promoting Christian and moral values. This is what "makes the difference between us and those dumbbells [terengos] and atheistic communists."

D'Aubuisson announced the creation of a permanent party commission to evaluate the technical and moral ability of party members chosen to occupy government posts.

In regard to rumors launched by opposition parties about alleged ideological divisions within Arena, D'Aubuisson categorically stressed that "a thief judges according to his own values, and there is only one path to follow: that of Arena and El Salvador."

In regard to the New York agreements, D'Aubuisson said that by signing those agreements "the government has offered the dumbbells (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) a golden opportunity to enter the political field, where we will be waiting for them."

At the end, the following members were elected members of Arena's Executive Committee, which will direct the party during the next two years: Armando Calderon Sol (president), Guillermo Sol Bang, Roberto Angulo, Juan Jose Domenech, Raul Somoza Alfaro, Ricardo de Leon, Roberto Cano, Jaime Alvarez, Victoriano Moreira, Mauricio Zablah, Arnoldo Perla, Gloria Salguero Gross, Carlos Mejia, and Alfredo Batres.

Report on Rebel Activities 22-28 Sep

PA0210222791

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 September broadcasts an eight-minute battle report. The report states that on 20 September at 1000, END (National Army for Democracy) forces clashed with the Belloso Battalion in San Fernando, Morazan Department, "inflicting five casualties on this elite force." The report adds that on that same date at 1300, END units clashed for 30 minutes in Cerro La Jagua with the Arce Battalion and inflicted one casualty on the enemy. At 1500 on the same date, the report further states that other END units attacked the same battalion; no casualties were reported. At 0830 on 21 September, the report notes that END forces clashed with Army troops in El Volcan de Torola, Morazan Department; one casualty was inflicted on the Army. The report concludes that on that same date at 1045, END forces mined the path of the Atlacatl Battalion at Las Vueltas, inflicting two casualties, including the wounding of one patrol chief.

In the same battle report from eastern Salvador, Radio Farabundo Marti states that at 1600 on 20 September, END cadets clashed in Morazan with two Arce Battalion companies and confirmed two casualties inflicted on the enemy.

El Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish on 24 September carries a 200-word report on page two issued by the Defense Ministry. The report states that seven FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) rebels were killed on 23 September in clashes throughout the territory. The report adds that during clashes in Suchitoto, the First Infantry Brigade confiscated three

M-16 rifles, two AK-47 assault rifles, ammunition, and a communications radio. The report also states that during clashes in San Antonio, Morazan Department, one soldier was killed and one was wounded while two AK-47 rifles, explosives, and other war material were confiscated. According to the report, "Atlacatl troops defused eight booby trap mines in Las Vueltas," Chalatenango Department. The report concluded that near Suchitoto the same troops found six mortars and one Soviet-made machine gun.

Radio Farabundo Marti at 0000 GMT on 24 September carries a two-minute battle report which states that during 36 days of clashes, END forces have inflicted 138 casualties. The reports states the number of casualties sustained by each battalion: Arce, 47; Belloso, 41; Fourth Military Detachment, 30; Third Infantry Brigade, nine; Third Military Detachment, four; and "seven more when the UH-1H Huey helicopter was shot down by END forces on 6 September" in Cerro Cacahuatique. The report adds that on 20 September, END forces clashed for an hour with the Lempa Battalion in Santa Elena, Usulutan Department and inflicted two casualties. The report adds that on 22 September, END forces clashed with Morazan Battalion troops in El Rincon, inflicting one casualty. According to the report, the Chalatenango garrison sustained eight casualties on 23 September in La Cruz, La Laguna Seca, Pino, and Pitahaya Hills, as well as in El Tamarindo, which are all located in San Jose de las Flores, Chalatenango Department.

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 25 September carries a two-minute report which states that "this morning about 100 FMLN rebels occupied positions along El Desvio road" and took part in heavy clashes with 6th Infantry Brigade commandos, resulting, according to military sources, in six rebels killed and 4 soldiers wounded. The reports adds that on this occasion, the following war material was confiscated: two AK-46 rifles, 1 M-16, rifle, one M-79 rifle, and one RPG-7.

Paris AFP in Spanish at 1528 GMT on 26 September carries a 200- word San Salvador datelined item on a report issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee stating that "during violent clashes in El Transito, San Miguel Department, three rebels were killed and four soldiers were wounded." The report also stated that two soldiers were wounded during a rebel ambush of an Army vehicle in Tejutla, in Chalatenango Department, adding that two more rebels and another soldier were wounded in another skirmish near Suchitoto. The report concludes by stating that on 26 September "a rebel column occupied a portion of the strategic northern highway, just 15 km from the capital," totally paralyzing traffic, while other rebel units clashed with soldiers nearby.

El Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 26 September publishes a 200-word report on page 13 stating that four civilians were injured on 25 September, caught in a cross-fire, during clashes between soldiers and FMLN rebels on the Villa El Triunfo road.

El Salvador EL MUNDO on 26 September on page 3 publishes an approximately 125-word report by the Armed Forces Press Committee stating that the Atlacatl Battalion located a minefield, experts defused "13 booby trap mines, buried strategically." The report adds that Atlacatl Battalion clashed violently with rebels in San Jose de las Flores, Chalatenango, during which two rebels were killed, one injured, while two AK-47 rifles were confiscated. The report concludes stating that the Artillery Brigade dismantled a rebel camp in the Huisisilapa mountains, La Libertad Department, adding that the rebels had fled leaving behind war supplies and explosive materials that were confiscated.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 26 September carries a three-minute report starting with clashes in Santa Ana on 23 September: one casualty inflicted on the enemy. The report states that on 25 September an END column stopped two trucks loaded with coffee, which was distributed among the people. Shortly after, cavalry troops showed up and skirmishes ensued; no casualties were reported. The report concludes stating that END units clashed with the Atlacatl Battalion on 25 September in Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department, inflicting 12 casualties on the Atlacatl enemy.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 27 September carries an eight-minute battle report. The first report states that on 26 September END columns controlled a stretch of road between Tonacatepeque and San Jose de las Flores and occupied that neighborhood north of San Salvador. The report adds that "troops of the Soriano Battalion of the 1st Infantry Brigade arrived and clashes ensued resulting in 12 enemy casualties, including one sublieutenant." The following weapons were seized as a result of this action: one 90-mm cannon with four grenades, as well as three M-16 rifles, 20 M-19 grenades, four hand grenades, one PRC-77 military communications radio, 10 knapsacks, and two military kits. In another action, "on 26 September END forces occupied the road between Suchitoto and San Martin in Cuscatlan and clashed with units of the Pantera Battalion near a turnoff to San Rafael; the number of enemy casualties is unknown." Another report says that "the END inflicted three casualties on the Treasury Police as a result of an ambush in La Reina, Chalatenango." Meanwhile, "troops of the Morazan Battalion sustained four casualties during clashes on 22 September between El Cururo Hill and Jocoaitique. The enemy left behind six M-19 grenades." The next report says that "END units harassed positions of Arce Battalion in Perquin Hill on 25 September, and attacked positions of the same battalion on 26 September, inflicting two casualties on the enemy." The station then reports various propaganda activities in Lislique, La Union Department, Cacaopera, San Miguel Department, Lolotique. A report from San Miguel Department says that "on 25 September END forces controlled a

stretch of road, at 0700 troops of the 6th Infantry Brigade and Lempa Battalion arrived, the clash lasted two hours, leaving four enemy casualties, including one subsergeant."

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 27 September carries a one-minute report saying that "on 26 September guerrillas resumed attacks on Army positions after the negotiations in New York were over. Military sources confirmed that eight soldiers and three rebels were injured during clashes in northern San Salvador." In addition, "three guerrillas were killed and 10 soldiers and four civilians were injured during clashes on 25 September in San Miguel, Usulutan, Cuscatlan, and Chalatenango. The Armed Forces also blamed the FMLN for burning two trucks transporting coffee in Villa El Triunfo."

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 28 September carries a one-minute report stating that "on 27 September, FMLN columns attacked the security guards at the 15 September Dam, between San Vicente and Usulutan Department with mortar and rifle fire." The report adds that "no casualties or damage was reported." In addition, the Armed Forces reported the death of one soldier and one rebel during clashes between Apopa and Aguilares. The report adds that "three soldiers and four civilians were wounded." The station also reports that "there were strong clashes at noon on 27 September in Usulutan Department, when the Army surprised guerrillas disrupting traffic. Military sources confirmed that the rebels burned three vehicles near El Coyolito and San Agustin; no casualties were reported."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 28 September carries 10 minutes of battle reports. One report says that on 27 September "END forces occupied 2 km of northern road between Guazapa and Aguilares in San Salvador Department." One National Guard was killed and one injured during a four-hour clash. The report adds that in clashes in the same area, the Atlacatl Battalion sustained several casualties. The END reported "the death of Edgardo Diaz, whose pseudonym was David."

The same source reports clashes from 0900 to 1300 on 26 September with La Libertad Battalion of the 1st Infantry Brigade in El Zapote, Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, during which the enemy sustained three casualties.

The station then reports clashes on 26 September between 1000 and 1100 in Tenancingo jurisdiction, which resulted in one enemy casualty. Meanwhile, on 25 September in Cabanas Department, END forces harassed a National Guard position in Tejutepeque; the number of enemy casualties is unknown.

The announcer then refers to a surprise attack on security guards at the 15 September Dam at 0300 on 27 September, which resulted in six casualties on the Army, and two more casualties during clashes at 1500 that same day with troops of the 15 September Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade in Santa Clara jurisdiction.

Radio Venceremos then reports various actions in northern Morazan, where END forces carried out propaganda meetings and distributed food among the people.

Another report from northern San Miguel says that at 0600 on 26 September, the END clashed with the 3d Infantry Brigade in Nuevo Eden de San Juan, and later on that same day with commando units in Loma Los Gatos, Montecillo, inflicting one casualty on the enemy.

The last report from Morazan says that "at 1100 on 27 September two U.S. made Dragon Fly A-37 planes carried out massive bombings over civilian working areas in El Mozote and Los Toriles, Arambala jurisdiction."

FMLN Communique Urges Retrial in Jesuit Case

PA0210180291 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command on 1 October; place not given]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command, in view of the verdict on the trial on the murder of the Jesuit priests, announces to the nation and to the international community that:

1. From the beginning, the judicial process was corrupt because the top levels of power protected the masterminds of the crime.

2. It is obvious that the verdict was rushed because of U.S. military aid, the discussion of which will enter a decisive stage when the fiscal year ends in late October.

3. The acquittal of the executioners is unacceptable because it sets an ill-fated precedent in a country in which thousands of crimes have been committed with complete impunity.

4. Neither the masterminds nor the perpetrators of the crime were punished.

5. Only the intermediate command of the criminal terrorist operation was declared guilty and they have the promise of amnesty, hinted at by Mr. Alfredo Cristiani, which would be clearly unacceptable to the FMLN.

6. The above shows there is no guarantee for civilian society.

7. Because of the importance of this case and to end impunity, the FMLN believes it is mandatory to conduct a second phase of the judicial process aimed at punishing the masterminds of the crime. The FMLN will uphold this position at the negotiation table.

[Signed] General Command of the FMLN
[Dated] 1 October 1991

Guatemala

Court Releases Officers Involved in Devine Case

PA0210141791 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Oct 91 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 October—The Attorney General's Office has reported that the 11 soldiers, who were charged with participating in the kidnapping and murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine in El Peten on 8 June 1990, were set free by the military prosecutor. The office reported that no information has been given up to now regarding the reasons for this action.

One of the most important soldiers released is Captain Hugo Roberto Contreras Alvarado, who is charged with masterminding the kidnapping and murder of the U.S. citizen. Contreras had been released once before by the same military prosecutor's office.

Regarding the same case, the 10th Court of Appeals declared that a preliminary hearing against Colonel Guillermo Portillo Gomez, second commander of the military zone in Santa Elena, Peten, was in order as there is evidence that Portillo Gomez ordered Devine's death. The court's resolution was issued in early September.

The resolution by the military prosecutor suspends Col. Portillo Gomez from his post as commander of the Santa Rosa military zone and remands him to the courts. Thus, the reasons for the release of the other implicated soldiers will not be known for a few days.

Army Spokesman Gives Details

PA0210154391 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Today the Army denied that all military officers arrested in connection with the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine were released. The murder took place in June 1990. The Army confirmed that two colonels implicated in this incident were released, while a captain and a specialist were released on parole.

However, seven other military officers still remain under arrest. Army spokesman Colonel Homero Garcia provided more details on this case:

[Begin Garcia recording] It turns out that, according to existing legal procedures, two Army officers were simply released, while another officer was released on parole, since an appeal was filed against the court ruling. Col. Guillermo Portillo and Col. Mario Garcia Catalan have been released since these is no evidence linking them with this incident. The plaintiff appealed this decision by the court one day after it was issued.

Captain Hugo Contreras, the third person involved in this incident, was released after his arrest warrant was revoked because the evidence against him was dismissed. Regarding this case, the plaintiff also appealed this decision.

Specialist Fabian Arevalo de la Cruz was released on parole, while the Attorney General's Office appealed this court decision. Eleven soldiers, including lower-echelon personnel, two commanding officers, and one junior officer were indicted in this case.

This incident is being investigated and the investigation progressing normally. The process can be either slow or fast depending on several factors. Evidently, when an accusation was made, the Army presented the implicated officers to the authorities. Eventually, the charges against some officers were dismissed by the court. [end recording]

Honduras

* Changes Sought in Military, Civilian Equation

91CA0224A Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Aug 91 pp 10-11

[Text] The elimination of the position of commander in chief of the Armed Forces and a rule prohibiting the heads of the legislative and judicial branches from running for popularly elected posts in the period immediately following their service were proposed in the national Congress yesterday.

The proposal was presented by Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democrat (PINU-SD) Deputy Carlos Sosa Coello. It calls for profound changes in a number of constitutional articles pertaining to the functions of the Armed Forces.

The proposal, entitled "Constitutional Reforms To Strengthen Democracy," was presented by the board of officers, after prior consultation, to the president of the Congress, Rodolfo Irias Navas.

However, when the reading of the proposal began, Irias Navas withdrew, and the vice president, Carlos Torres Lopez, was left to preside over the session.

The lengthy document calls for a series of doctrinal justifications, and would not only eliminate the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, but would subordinate military decisions to the express orders of the president of the Republic, through the Ministry of National Defense and Public Security.

To introduce his proposal, Sosa Coello chose the precise moment when the "proposals" item had been reached on the congressional agenda. This apparently took the greater part of the deputies in the majority parties by surprise.

Many parliamentarians in both wings breathed a long sigh of relief when, in setting forth his justifications, the PINU deputy read the paragraph which says: "To eliminate the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces." And after learning the contents of the document, some of the legislators could not get over their surprise.

At the conclusion of the reading of the proposal, the official replacing Irias Navas, who had merely approved the introduction of the proposal, adjourned the session, and immediately announced that the proposal would be sent to the Commission on Constitutionality for the drafting of the pertinent opinion.

This same proposal would legalize the exile of Honduran citizens convicted by the courts of the crime of drug trafficking.

If these amendments are approved, which would entail their ratification by the following legislature, the presidents of the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice, Rodolfo Irias Navas and Oswaldo Ramos Soto, respectively, would find their political aspirations for the next governmental term blocked as of January 1992.

Next week, the officers of the Congress may launch a series of consultations with the various sectors of society, including the Armed Forces, to determine their opinions on the proposal.

The Statement of Justifications for the Constitutional Amendment for the Democratic Consolidation of the State of Honduras reads as follows:

The beginning of this decade poses two historical challenges for Central America—integration and full democratization. The convulsive years of the 1980's brought the collapse of structures and antagonisms which had existed since the end of World War II in Central America and in the world. An advance along a new path began in 1990 wherein the people will participate in the building of their own future in the search for their own well-being, through the consolidation of world peace and cooperation. The desire to achieve ideological victories at any cost, which has so many times led, in practice, to defeat, has yielded to the positive replacement of demagogy and the drama of the political bosses with logic and good sense. And the kind of force which is not based on law is gradually being relegated to the garbage dump of history.

Honduras, which has been the victim of regional clashes in Central America which have bloodied its soil, has contributed actively to the search for peaceful solutions. And a decade ago, it launched a process of internal democratization, and among its most outstanding successes, it can point proudly to the historic fact that it has elected three civilian governments in succession and in democratic fashion.

No one in Honduras can evade responsibility for our own backwardness and poverty, but neither is anyone exempt from the obligation to contribute to the building of our democracy. And no one may remain a spectator during its consolidation and development. The political parties waged a civic battle which culminated in the promulgation of the present Constitution of the Republic, and they have continued to participate in increasingly honest and free electoral processes. Simply because of their historic participation, these same political parties are now forced to search for methods of perfecting Honduran democracy. The organizations of a trade-union nature, which have more than once, thanks to their mobilization and their capacity for dialogue, represented salvation of an institutional sort, and they have served as effective mediators in the political disputes of this historic era. And, within the context of their specific social role, they must, in concert, contribute to encouraging an atmosphere of concord, and to making the impact of the current economic crisis on the Honduran people more bearable.

The Armed Forces of Honduras, which have guaranteed order through four consecutive electoral processes, understand their new role in a world of detente and within a state in the process of democratic construction. The Armed Forces realize that their structures must be adapted to the new tasks inherent in Central American peace and harmony in Honduran society, as a fundamental basis for the development of the people. They also recognize their obligation to contribute to perfecting and consolidating our democracy, motivated not only by civic altruism, but also by the certainty that anyone who fails to participate in these tasks of democratization will also exclude himself from Honduran progress toward a new beginning for the nation. And he will in the end lose any right to a protagonistic role, to any honor or recognition, and will inevitably go into this garbage can of history.

Frequently, given the natural imbalance caused by any process of change, our sovereign national Congress has found itself obliged to participate in the administrative organization of the state, outside the framework established for it by the Constitution, which diverts its attention from its specific tasks. The contribution the Congress owes to democracy is basically the establishment of a legal framework within which two goals can be achieved—democratic stability and the capacity to perfect the juridical tools. The first goal must be a firm one, but must not be so rigid as to lead to the breakdown of order, and the second must not be confused with the practice of making constant changes in the laws, which would lead us toward loss of credibility for the state and anarchy.

It was the dialectical handling of these two concepts—perfectibility and stability—which led the Constituent Assembly of 1982 to allow the amendment of the greater part of the constitutional text while blocking the efforts to amend certain articles. According to the legislators, these immutable articles provide the state with majesty and permanence, protecting it from attack by the petty politicians who think only of their personal short-term interests, as opposed to the permanent interests of the state, which are the very interests of the people. This criterion—reconciliation of the stability of the democratic institutions with the revision and perfecting they require—is what should prevail in the thinking of the Congress of the Republic.

Because of what has been said above, we are proposing to the sovereign representatives of the people the constitutional amendments we deem necessary in order to liberate our democratic process from old, and possibly evil, aspects. These are amendments which, as best we can determine, have three characteristics:

1. They do not affect any legitimate right or interest which any Honduran citizen might claim, since the amendment process set forth in our fundamental law guarantees the effective exercise of rights legitimately acquired.

2. They are reforms which we are proposing as a result of an analysis of our early and more recent history and the experience and practice acquired by other nations in the free and democratic world.

3. They are reforms which without any doubt will win the sympathy and support of various sectors of the Honduran people, who will see reflected in them many of the views they have not expressed previously but have shared in silence, as well as the common sense and the logic which should always be incorporated in every legislative act.

Without prejudice to other similar concerns, there are three institutional and individual modes of conduct which we believe seriously threaten the stability and free development of Honduran democracy.

a. The use of the powers of the state and its resources by officials on the highest level for political-electoral ends, with the resulting loss of institutional credibility and the abandonment by these officials of their proper duties to the detriment of the most legitimate interests of the state.

b. The existence of a dichotomy between the powers of the state and the high command of our Armed Forces, which hinders the normal development of government functions and violates the doctrine of the state, further promoting violations of the principles of verticality and unity of command within our Armed Forces.

c. The possibility that the tremendous accumulation of wealth resulting from the crime of drug trafficking will be politically used to subvert our institutions and values, making it possible for criminals to mount an assault on the political regime.

In the proposed amendments, the untouchability of the so-called bedrock articles of the Constitution has been respected, and the amendment of the pertinent articles is proposed in order to achieve the following goals:

a. To prevent the use of the authority of the state for short-term political purposes.

b. To eliminate the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, substituting for it a ministry of defense. To provide a clear definition of the apolitical, subordinate, and nondeliberative nature of the Armed Forces as prescribed by the Constitution.

c. To allow the extradition of Honduran citizens guilty of the crime of trafficking in drugs.

Whereas:

The democratic process which was launched in Honduras in 1982 needs to be strengthened and deepened through the adaptation of the constitutional framework to the needs of the life of the state.

Whereas:

In the past, the candidacy of presidents of the legislative and judicial branches for the highest post in the executive branch has made proper administration of the entire government difficult, creating a situation which should not be repeated.

Whereas:

The historic circumstances which led to the establishment of the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Constitution of 1957, and its historic continuation in the Constitution of 1965 and the current Constitution promulgated in 1982, no longer exist.

Whereas:

The text of the Constitution should not divide the authority entrusted to the state, while Article 278 does this, as does Article 279, where the powers of the executive and legislative branches are concerned.

Whereas:

The Armed Forces come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the executive branch, in which the other branches of the state should not interfere.

Whereas:

The definition of the apolitical, subordinate, and nondeliberative nature of the Armed Forces as an institution is not consistent with the current authority of the Higher Council of the Armed Forces.

Whereas:

The safeguarding of the democratic system against potential domestic or foreign threats is the obligation of all branches of the state.

Whereas:

The organizations or individuals which are engaged in the international crime of trafficking in drugs and narcotics constitute a threat to the sovereignty of nations and a factor in the subversion of their institutions.

The Congress of the Republic therefore decrees:

Decree No...(Amendment for the Democratic Consolidation of the State of Honduras).

Article 1

Article 304 of the Constitution of the Republic is amended to read as follows:

The president of the Supreme Court of Justice will be elected by the national Congress for a term of four years. He will not be allowed to participate, for any reason whatsoever, in political party activities, nor may he be a candidate for the leading post in any other branch of state government during the term immediately following his service.

Article 2

Article 195 of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

The deputies will meet on 23 January in their final preparatory session to elect their own officers.

The president of the national Congress will carry out his functions for a period of four years, and will serve as the president of the permanent commission. He may not seek the leading post in any other branch of state government during the term immediately following his service.

The balance of the board of officers will serve for a term of two years.

Article 3

Chapter X of the Constitution of the Republic will be amended such that its articles will read as follows:

Article 272 (unchanged)

The Armed Forces of Honduras are a national institution of a permanent, essentially professional, apolitical, subordinate, and nondeliberative nature.

They have been established to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic, to maintain peace and public order, and to ensure that the Constitution and the principles of free suffrage and alternation in the exercise of the post of president of the Republic will prevail.

Article 273 (unchanged)

The Armed Forces will be made up of the High Command, Army, Air Force, Naval Force, Public Security Force, and the bodies and departments which establish their constituent law.

Article 274 (amended)

The Armed Forces will be subject to the provisions of this Constitution and, in subordinate fashion, to their constituent law and the other laws and regulations governing their functioning. They will obey the instructions of the executive branch in connection with the tasks involved in literacy programs, education, agriculture, conservation of natural resources, road work, communications, health, agrarian reform, and emergency situations.

Article 175 (unchanged)
A special law will regulate the functioning of the military courts.

Article 276 (unchanged)
Military service is compulsory for citizens between 18 and 30 years of age.
A special law will govern the functioning of this system.

Article 277 (amended)

The Armed Forces of Honduras will come under the direct command of the president of the Republic, who in the exercise of this command in a manner consistent with the specific tasks of military science, will have the assistance of the Secretariat of National Defense and Public Security.

Article 278 (amended)

The orders issued to the Armed Forces of Honduras by the president of the Republic must be accepted and carried out.

Article 279 (amended)

The secretary of state for the national defense and public security bodies must be a general or superior officer with the rank of colonel in a branch or its equivalent, on active service, as well as a native-born Honduran citizen. No individual related to the president of the Republic or to those serving legally in his stead within the fourth degree of blood kinship or the second degree of relationsip by marriage may be appointed secretary of state for the defense and public security bodies.

Article 280 (amended)

All of Chapter VII of this Constitution, as well as the provisions of this chapter, will be applicable to the Secretariat of State for National Defense and Public Security.

Article 281 (amended)

In the event of the temporary absence of the secretary of state for national defense and public security, the undersecretary in the branch will carry out his functions, and should both be absent, these duties will fall to the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces.

In the event of the permanent absence of the president of the Republic, he will appoint another secretary of state who meets the requirements of the law.

Article 282 (amended)

The appointments of Armed Forces personnel will be made by the president of the Republic, through the intermediary of the Secretariat of National Defense and Public Security.

Article 283 (amended)

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces is a body under the jurisdiction of the Office of the President of the Republic

through the intermediary of the Secretariat of National Defense and Public Security. It will have the functions assigned to it by law.

Article 284 (amended)

The territory of the Republic will be divided into military regions for reasons of national security, and each will be under the command of a regional military commander. Each region will function on the basis of the provisions of the pertinent law, and may be divided into districts and sections in accordance with the instructions of the president of the Republic.

Article 285 (amended)

The Higher Council of the Armed Forces is the president of the Republic's consultative and advisory body on matters pertaining to the military establishment.

Article 286 (amended)

The Higher Council of the Armed Forces will be headed by the president of the Republic, who can appoint the secretary of National Defense and Public Security to serve as his representative. Its membership will be as prescribed by the constituent law of the Armed Forces.

Article 287 (unchanged)

A National Defense and Security Council is created. A special law will govern its organization and functioning.

Article 288 (unchanged)

Officer candidates in the Armed Forces will be trained at the Military Training Centers. Training centers for the various branches and services will be established in accordance with the needs of the military establishment.

Article 289 (unchanged)

The National Defense College is established as the highest institution of study for the Armed Forces. It is entrusted with the training of military and selected civilian personnel for participation in the national strategic planning of joint actions in the political, economic, social, and military sectors.

Article 290 (amended)

Military ranks can only be achieved by strict advancement in accordance with the pertinent law. Military personnel may not be deprived of their ranks, honors, or pensions in any way other than that established by law. Promotions from sublieutenant to captain, inclusive, will be made by the president of the Republic. Promotions from major to major general, inclusive, will be made by the national Congress on the recommendation of the president of the Republic, through the intermediary of the Secretariat of National Defense and Public Security. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces will issue an opinion on each recommendation for promotion.

Article 291 (unchanged)

The Military Insurance Institute will function for the protection, well-being, and social security of all of the members of the Armed Forces, in accordance with the pertinent law.

Article 292 (unchanged)

Exclusive authority to manufacture, import, distribute, and sell weapons, ammunition, and similar articles will be reserved for the Armed Forces.

Article 293 (unchanged)

The administration of the funds allocated to the defense branch will be the responsibility of the Office of the Paymaster General of the Armed Forces, which will receive from the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit the funds allocated from the General Income and Expenditure Budget of the Republic.

Article 4

To eliminate Item No. 10 of Article 205 of the Constitution of the Republic, and to amend No's 15 and 24 to read as follows:

No. 15 (Article 205)

To establish whether or not there is justification for legal proceedings against the president, appointees to the Office of the President, deputies in the national Congress, Supreme Court of Justice judges, members of the National Electoral Court, secretaries and undersecretaries of state, heads of diplomatic missions, the state comptroller or deputy comptroller, the attorney general of the Republic or his deputy, or the director or deputy director of administrative probity.

No. 24 (Article 205)

To effect promotions to the ranks of major to general, on the recommendation of the president of the Republic.

Article 5

To amend Article 102 of the Constitution of the Republic to read as follows:

No Honduran citizen can be exiled or surrendered to the authorities of a foreign state other than in accordance with international law and following the holding of an extradition hearing by the Supreme Court of Justice.

Provisional Article

During the constitutional term for which the current commander in chief of the Armed Forces was appointed, the Congress of the Republic will amend the constituent law of the Armed Forces such as to adapt it to the new text of the Constitution.

Article 6

This decree amending the Constitution must be ratified by the next regular legislature, meeting in regular session, by a vote of two-thirds of all of its members.

Rodolfo Irias Navas, President

Marco Augusto Hernandez E., Secretary

* Labor Leaders Support Civilian Control

91CA0224C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 34

[Text] The workers' leadership came out yesterday in favor of the proposal put forward by PINU [Innovation and Unity Party] Deputy Carlos Sosa Coello which calls for the elimination of the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the transfer of his functions to the minister of defense.

Francisco Guerrero, the secretary general of the Confederation of Honduran Workers (CTH), said that this draft law is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic, according to which the military should be subordinate to the civilian authority.

"This is what the Congress must clarify, so that there will not be a government within another government, which is what, in the long run, the Armed Forces appear to be," he emphasized.

Guerrero said that as a result "we have an opportunity here, although we have some doubts because this is a proposal from a parliamentarian representing a small party, against the leveling blue and liberal faction, one of those which always join together in these actions to benefit a given group and will be left with a desire."

This is a problematical situation, because in the case of the assassinated student Ricci Mabel Martinez, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice himself said by way of justification that a judge cannot take up a machine gun and go out to bring military officers in. What he meant thereby was that "there is an armed authority, which at a given time may rebel or ignore and disobey the civilian authority."

The CTH leader maintained that the members of his organization are not the enemies of the military establishment, but that there should be an authority higher than the military establishment, so as to keep it within the framework of democracy and the Constitution.

Meanwhile, Hector Hernandez, the president of the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH), pointed out that the popular movement has been insisting on the need for the democratization of the country where its political parties, government, Armed Forces, and even the trade unions themselves are concerned.

"There is a demand that democracy be not just formal, but real. Thus, Dr. Sosa Coello's whole proposal points in that direction, which is positive. Would that the various factions in the legislative chamber might still have some vestige of patriotism so as to support this draft law," he stated.

He said that the democratization of the country proceeds through various channels, and one of them is the subordination of the military to the civilian authority, which will be achieved by means of various actions. There is therefore a need for accompanying measures such as the rational use of Army resources and the reduction of its budget and size.

Hernandez said that the Armed Forces should not view this proposal as a part of any antimilitary campaign, because it represents a demand which society, on all population levels, has been making for some time.

Carlos Spilbury, the vice president of the Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers (FECESITLIH), said for his part that the PINU deputy introduced this motion subsequent to the most recent incidents in the Armed Forces, and for the purpose of further democratizing the system.

"We are witnessing things never seen before, and as workers, we view (the initiative) with favor. It will enable the civil authority to act to implement justice in cases such as that of the normal-school student," he added.

Spilbury said that no one can be immune from justice, and therefore all of these perpetrators must be judged in order to establish precedents for the future.

* Christian Democratic Party Supports Changes

91CA0224B Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party (PDC, DC) supports the draft law which would eliminate the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces and would transfer his functions to the minister of defense and public security.

The only difference between the Christian democrats and the members of the PINU [Innovation and Unity Party] is that the former urge that the minister of defense be a civilian appointed by the president of the Republic, and not necessarily a military officer.

Ignacio Osorto, the president of the DC, said that the members of his party are in agreement, in principle, with the proposed amendments to various constitutional articles, because it is their belief that the Armed Forces should be reduced.

The Christian democrats believe that there must be greater subordination of the military to the civilian authority, for which reason they support Carlos Sosa Coello's proposal.

Osorto explained that if the Armed Forces personnel desire a coup d'etat, they will proceed with it even if 20 constitutions are written. He expressed the view that the education of military personnel for life in a democracy is, therefore, the priority task.

"Decrees will not prevent the use of guns. Only reason can prevent a coup d'etat, and it is for this reason that it is necessary to wage a struggle for justice," he added.

Concerning the constitutional amendment which would prevent the heads of the legislative and judicial branches from running as candidates for the presidency, Ignacio Osorto said that the Christian democrats approve, because when this happens state funds are used.

Nicaragua

Reportage on Chamorro's Visit to France

WA0210145991

For reportage on the visit by President Violeta Chamorro to France, including reports on her talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edith Cresson, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Roland Dumas, please see the France section of the 2 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

President Chamorro Withdraws Veto of Property Law

PA0210211791 Paris AFP in Spanish 1933 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Managua, 2 Oct (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro has withdrawn the veto of a law canceling the distribution of property among the Sandinists, Legislative Assembly President Alfredo Cesar announced on 2 October.

Cesar said that, on 1 October, he received a letter from Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo in which Chamorro expresses her decision.

Cesar explained that the withdrawal of the veto, which "did not allow any negotiations," paves the "way" for modifying the law in question.

The law, which orders the expropriation of approximately 6,000 Sandinists without any compensation, has created a serious conflict between the Executive and Legislative Branch.

On 11 September, Chamorro vetoed 20 of the 33 articles of the aforementioned law, given their "unconstitutional" nature. This law was approved by 52 progovernment legislators on 20 August in the absence of 39 Sandinist deputies, who walked out of the Assembly plenum.

Cesar said that the Executive and Legislative Branches will form a commission that will be in charge of reforming the law prior to 24 October, the deadline for the law's publication according to regulation.

"We are willing to improve the law. We have never been opposed to seeking a solution," said Cesar, acknowledging that "as human beings the UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies may have left certain things out."

He reiterated the "irrevocable principle" of justice for the poorest and most humble, adding that he would make amends for the abuses perpetrated by the Sandinists regarding the distribution of properties, known as the pinata-like giveaway.

Cesar, a former Nicaraguan Resistance (RN-Contras) leader, flatly denied that an attempt is being made to create a "new law," as Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo assured on 1 October.

According to Lacayo, Cesar agrees that a negotiated solution of the conflict is necessary, and former President Daniel Ortega, leader of the opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front, supports Chamorro's proposal.

The commission that will work on the law will be composed of five deputies from the ruling UNO coalition, two Sandinists, and a similar number of government employees.

The group will have until 24 October to make the pertinent modifications, thereby making it possible to "undo the conflict between the two branches of state," Cesar said.

OAS Call For Reinstatement of Aristide Backed

PA0210233091 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has reported that the Foreign Ministry has instructed Dr. Jose Antonio Tijerino, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, to support the adoption of strong resolutions demanding the reinstatement of the democratically elected government of Haiti.

[Begin Leal recording] We believe that the countries of Latin America should warn the coupist government that has assumed power in Haiti that we are not inclined to allow them to do this in this region. We hope and trust that the military coup leaders understand this, and will reinstate democratic order. [end recording]

Included among the sanctions that the OAS may take are the withdrawal of diplomatic recognition and suspension of all aid.

Panama

Reportage on Government Reaction to Coup in Haiti

Foreign Minister Condemns Coup

PA0310032491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Panama City, 2 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that his country will not recognize a Haitian Government that results from the coup d'etat. He added that Panama will sever relations with Port-au-Prince if the military remains in power.

Linares also told a group of journalists that Panamanian President Guillermo Endara expects the OAS to "adopt effective and efficient solutions to restore democracy in Haiti."

"Do not let it become a case like Panama's, which resulted in nothing," the foreign minister added, referring to the frustrated OAS mediation between Manuel Antonio Noriega and his opponents in 1989, a few months before the U.S. invasion.

Asked by journalists what Panama will do if Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fails to recover his post and if the military consolidates the coup, Linares curtly said that it would lead "to a break in relations."

Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Raul Mulino is in Washington attending an OAS foreign ministers' meeting, which is being held in an effort to counter the coup in Haiti.

Assembly Issues Resolution

PA0310005391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Oct 91 p 24A

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B. and Elkilia Santos]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly has strongly condemned the coup d'etat perpetrated in Haiti by the military against democracy and legitimate President Jean-Betrand Aristide, the populist leader who has been forced into exile.

The legislators on 1 October contended that the members of the Haitian Armed Forces, who on 29 September seized power by force of arms, violated the Constitution of that nation and dealt a blow to the incipient democratic process.

In this regard, the legislators backed a resolution presented by Jose Domingo Torres demanding that the Panamanian Government apply the Bethancourt Doctrine against the military regime in Haiti.

The resolution states that the coup d'etat in Haiti represents a "lamentable setback in the democratic dawn that Latin America is experiencing, after years of terror, injustice, and death under civilian and military dictatorial regimes."

The legislators also expressed their support for and recognition of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the Haitian people, and called on the international community to disavow the new military regime, given its illegitimate character.

This resolution will be forwarded to the Panamanian executive branch, the United Nations, the OAS, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Latin American Parliament.

Following the military coup, the Panamanian Government is taking steps to evacuate 15 Panamanians who remain in Haiti, Foreign Minister Julio Linares has reported.

Linares said that, on several occasions, Panamanian authorities have made contact with the Panamanian charge d'affaires in Haiti, but the communications have been interrupted.

Linares said that he has reports that indicate that there are 10 to 15 Panamanians at the Panamanian Embassy, including a group of journalists who had traveled to Haiti to broadcast a soccer game between that country and Panama.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced to leave the country for France.

Government Gives Peru Deadline on Missing Men

PA0310030191 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that the Panamanian Government has given Peru a 30-day deadline to reply on the whereabouts of former Panamanian military officers Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre, who sought asylum in that country.

[Linares] Our good relations with Peru basically depend on whether or not these men are found, and on the speed with which the extradition processes are handled. We have decided to allow some time, 30 to 40 days, because we are interested in locating these men and we want to give the Peruvian authorities the opportunity to look for them. If the status quo remains in 30 to 40 days, meaning that these men do not appear, then we will make a decision about Peru.

[Reporter] What will that decision be, Mr. Minister?

[Linares] We will adopt it when the time comes. We have yet to adopt it, but we will adopt it in due time.

[Reporter] Could this involve a break in relations with Peru, Mr. Minister?

[Linares] Look, I repeat, in foreign politics [pauses] if I tell you what I will do, I would be a very bad foreign minister. We cannot announce things that will be done. In foreign politics, one makes the announcement after making the decisions, or at least when they are adopted. [end recording]

Correction to Aid From Support Countries

PA0210031591

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Aid From Support Countries May Be in Jeopardy," published in the 1 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 16-17:

Page 17, column one, second paragraph, second sentence make read: ...be approved by all government branches to... (changing "certain" to "all")

Argentina

Menem Phones Haiti's Aristide; Reasserts Support

PY0310015691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Oct (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem phoned Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide tonight to express the Argentine Government's "total support." Menem added that his government "will not accept any dictatorships in Latin America."

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported tonight that President Menem phoned Aristide from Jerusalem. Aristide is in Washington to attend the OAS meeting.

During their phone conversation, Menem assured his Haitian colleague that "the only Haitian Government recognized by Argentina is the one that was democratically elected. Therefore, we do not recognize the current de facto government."

Menem also reasserted "the Argentine Government's commitment to all Latin American democracies." He also reiterated: "Our government will not tolerate any dictatorships."

Aristide thanked President Menem's gesture and said he is "optimistic" that the situation in Haiti will soon be normalized.

CGT Executive Council Rejects Resignations

PY2809010091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Executive Council of the Azopardo branch of CGT (General Workers Confederation) yesterday rejected the resignations of Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini and leaders Manuel Diz Rey and Domingo Moreyra and announced that the CGT members were ready to resign any time as soon as conditions have been met for the "workers movement's unity."

This resolution was taken in the wake of a "profound" debate within the CGT Azopardo when Ubaldini, Diz Rey and Moreyra announced their resignation on Wednesday, arguing that this would "facilitate unity in the trade union."

But unity must be achieved "through a CGT congress which excludes none of the sectors," council spokesmen pointed out, and only then all the council would resign.

Meanwhile, leaders of the San Martin branch of CGT said they would not resign and judged Ubaldini's move a direct consequence of his defeat in the September 8 elections. This pro-Menem branch of CGT further confirmed their support for the government and announced they will stage a plenary meeting next week to which they will invite ministers Domingo Cavallo (economy) Rodolfo Diaz (labour) and the head of the ANSSAL (National Health Insurance Administration), Guerino Andreoni.

But Ubaldini was under fire from his own CGT as well when yesterday morning Transport Workers Union (UTA) leader and CGT joint secretary Juan Manuel Palacios said Ubaldini's attitude was "inconsistent." Other union leaders expressed their concern about the uncertainties to be faced if Ubaldini's resignation went ahead. In direct reference to UOM (Metal Workers Union) leader Lorenzo Miguel and his 62 Organizations, one CGT Azopardo leader remarked "If Saul (Ubaldini) goes—we'll be eaten by the albatrosses."

"We don't want Lorenzo Miguel to settle here and kick us all out," said other council spokesmen.

Meanwhile, Tobacco Workers Union leader Roberto Digon was sceptical about the unification of the "workers union" proposed by Miguel's 62 Organizations unless this is done on the basis of "ideals and policies" but then was confident that the crisis will give birth to "a new unionist class." "Some (of the old) union leaders walk around wearing a burial shroud and they just don't realize it," said Digon.

For his part, Miguel said President Menem should speak to those who will attend the rally to be staged at Plaza de Mayo (opposite Government House) by CGT-Azopardo workers next October 17 so that the demonstrators decide "whether they back or do not share the President's discourse."

Painted Faces Leaders' Sentences Corrected

PY0110235291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Oct 91 p 13

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Just days after the appeal of sentences handed down by the Federal Appeals Court to the 15 carapintada [painted faces] leaders of the December 3 rebellion, prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo rectified his request regarding the stiffening of punishments for two of those officers. Moreno Ocampo clarified that due to "a material error" in the extraordinary appeal before the court, he asked for a 16-year jail sentence for Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Arnoldo Perez and 12 years for Major Horacio Linari, when in fact the request for both soldiers was meant to be six years and eight months.

Stock Exchange Reports Produce Figures

PY0110235891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] (NA)—The Argentine production of wheat, soyabean and maize will reach 26.9 million tons in the 1991/92 harvest, the Rosario Stock Exchange said yesterday. The wheat sown area has fallen by 26 percent compared to last year, the Rosario Stock Exchange added. Wheat production is expected to total nine million tons, down from 10 million tons last year. Soyabean and maize production is expected to be 9.9 million and eight million tons respectively. The EC is expected to produce 88.45 million tons of wheat, up from 84.74

million tons last year due to agricultural subsidies, the Rosario Stock Exchange said.

New Chief of Planning Secretariat Takes Post

PY0110235691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] (NA)—Chief Economic Adviser Juan Llach assumes his new post at the helm of the Planning Secretariat today. The Planning Secretariat has been placed under the wing of the Economy Ministry.

Bolivia

Paz Discusses Gas Sales to Argentina, Chile

PY3009163491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Relay from Tarija by Mar[illegible] Rollano]

[Text] This is a relay from Tarija to report on the activities here on 28 September, the 25th anniversary of the Padilla Battalion.

President Jaime Paz Zamora, who attended the ceremony at this military unit, was questioned by Tarija journalists. He referred to important issues such as the reduction of income on natural gas sales to Argentina due to the price-deregulation process to be implemented in that country next year. This reduction will be cushioned by the agreement signed in 1989 with President Carlos Menem that provides for the sale of similar quantities of gas, thus preventing a drastic reduction of Bolivia's income.

President Paz added that the possible reduction of income next year will be overcome and the citizenry should rest assured and believe in the measures the government is implementing in this field. He added that in his capacity as president, he believes this is the best policy, the policy that has worked, because Argentina has honored its natural gas purchases when the Bolivian Government needed the money. At least Argentina has kept its word with the government of the Patriotic Accord.

He also explained that the problems the previous governments had in collecting the money for the gas sales were mainly due to their own incapacity and that the blame cannot be placed on the Argentine Government.

Paz said that the basic element is the great political affinity that currently exists between the two countries' leaders.

When asked about his visit to Japan, Paz said he will leave on 16 October with the purpose of assessing significant projects designed to contribute to Bolivia's sustained development.

He said that it is quite amazing that two great powers, Japan and the United States, have paid attention to Bolivia.

Paz said the subject of natural gas also will be discussed with Japanese authorities [word indistinct] the project to build and finance the thermoelectric plant in Puerto Suarez.

In referring to gas sales to Chile, President Paz said that it depends on the installation of a gas pipeline but it would represent an income of more than $100 million [words indistinct] due to the irresponsible attitude of individuals who represent, and others who do not represent, the people hindering our strategy that has been carefully assessed and designed and is to the benefit of the Bolivian people.

Privatization Program To Begin in Early 1992

PY2809152291 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Samuel Doria Medina has said that the program to privatize public enterprises will definitely begin during the first months of 1992. The minister stressed that the government has been preparing all necessary details and that the ruling Patriotic Agreement plans to carry out the privatization of public enterprises with honesty and clarity.

Medina stressed that Lloyd Aereo Boliviano will be accorded special treatment because the firm needs private capital to renew its fleet and continue operating. Medina also said that Bolivian Government Oil Deposits and the Mining Corporation of Bolivia will not be privatized, and added that both companies need private investment to improve production.

Social Strategy Criticized by Labor Leaders

PY2609235791 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] The government's social strategy, which will provide the framework for "a war" against poverty, is a political campaign that seeks to gain advantage for the upcoming municipal elections. Several labor leaders have said that "the fight against poverty will begin when there are no more privileged sections receiving benefits from the state."

The leaders were consulted about a government announcement saying that it will never be possible to eliminate poverty because it is very difficult to eliminate the privileges of those who enjoy political support. Peasant leader Guido Tarqui said yesterday that "we therefore believe that peasants and workers will continue to be poor."

Factory worker leader Luis Perez said that the poverty of Bolivians will not be eliminated through simple decrees. "Poverty will be eliminated when the people are given

what they have to receive, which means to equitably distribute the country's wealth," he said.

He said that the government should stop concentrating its support on the private sector, returning their social conquests to workers. He reiterated that the announced decision to fight poverty "is another lie by the government."

Tarqui said that if the government wants to begin a war against poverty, it should immediately cancel the free bargaining resolutions, and return to workers the bonuses of which they were stripped by the neoliberal policy.

Oil worker leader Julio Arce said that the social development strategy should be something real and not merely a political announcement made at the beginning of an electoral period. He added that "if the government has decided to fight poverty, I believe that all segments of the population will agree."

Mining leader Milton Gomez said that to eradicate poverty, the government should begin by reactivating the economy in order to create new jobs.

The labor leaders also stated that the document should be released in its entirety, in order to see whether it is actually an instrument for finding a solution to the problems affecting the poor, or whether it is just another announcement to make the people forget that they are starving.

Bolivian Labor Federation leader Urzula Goyzueta has said that the document could be favorable for the workers, noting however that "it is a simple political campaign."

Drug-Trafficking Leader Sought by DEA Arrested

PY0210162891 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Another top drug-trafficking leader was arrested yesterday in San Ramon, Mamore Province. Umopar [Rural Area Police Patrol Unit] members arrested (Raul Rodriguez Fustiniano) in a peaceful operation and took him to Trinidad.

According to police, (Raul Rodriguez) is involved in drug trafficking, just as is his father Gerardo, a.k.a. Yayo Rodriguez, who was also arrested in this town about one month ago. (Raul Rodriguez) denied being involved in drug trafficking, but admitted that his father was involved in this trade from 1975 to 1977.

(Raul Rodriguez) is also wanted by the DEA and is on the list of individuals who could be extradited to the United States.

(Rodriguez) was arrested in his home at dawn yesterday. Following his arrest, Umopar confiscated the huge house that he is building, as well as five houses that belong to his father and one that belongs to his uncle Carmelo, who is also wanted on similar charges. Most of the houses were virtually empty; they were handed over to the San Ramon Civic Committee by the attorney who participated in the operation. This is the first time that goods seized from drug traffickers have been handed over to a civilian institution.

The inhabitants of San Ramon were very calm and were satisfied because this time Umopar did things peacefully. Father Gregorio, parish priest of San Ramon, said this should be the case all the time, and not as was done two years ago, when Umopar barged into the town and even raided the church.

Brazil

Collor Seeks Positive U.S. Attitude on Debt

PY0310010091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2057 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Oct (EFE)—Brazilian President Fernando Collor today asserted that he hopes the United States will adopt a positive attitude regarding the renegotiation of Brazil's and other Third World countries' foreign debt.

Collor added that Brazil intends to negotiate the payment of the foreign debt but "within periods of time and conditions that will not prevent the resumption of economic growth in the medium term."

Collor also added that the government "cannot increase Brazil's sacrifice in order to honor its international commitments."

The president disclosed that a few weeks ago the creditor banks' Advisory Committee made a $52 billion counterproposal for the foreign debt negotiation, which the federal government turned down, and that a new offer already has been made.

Moreover, Collor rejected the British FINANCIAL TIMES' comment that "Brazil is not a serious country," in referring to the suspension last week of the auction of the state-owned enterprise "Usiminas" [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.]

Collor said: "This is a game and Brazil is not going to put up with any more games or jokes about it. Brazil is a serious country and it is time people stopped identifying it with cliches."

Regarding developed nations, he said: "Before demanding anything from us, they must make an effort to honor the commitments undertaken not only with Brazil, but also with developing countries."

He added that some industrialized countries "did not give us the agreed reciprocal treatment, therefore, it would be much easier for me to say that probably those countries are not serious because they did not honor their commitments."

The Brazilian president has repeatedly voiced his annoyance over the lack of reciprocity by developed countries that demand that this country of 155 million inhabitants open its economy but, on the other hand, close the doors on Brazilian agricultural and industrial goods.

Venezuelan Military Incursions Reported

PY0210220091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Oct (EFE)—Official sources reported today, 1 October, that Sidney Possuelo, president of the National Indian Foundation (Funai), reported to President Fernando Collor de Mello about the Venezuelan military incursions inside Brazilian territory near the common border.

The Funai spokesman told EFE that Possuelo asked Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek on 30 September to begin an investigation of the incident that took place on 28 September.

According to the report, a group of Venezuelan National Guard agents aboard an official helicopter evicted Funai employees working in the Brazilian town of Hamoxi, 25 km from the border.

According to the Brazilian employees' report, the Venezuelan military agents told them that the region was part of Venezuelan territory.

This is the first time a high-ranking official of the Collor government has reported a violation of Brazilian territory by Venezuelan troops.

This year, however, Brazilian prospectors for gold and other minerals near the Venezuelan border have accused Venezuelan military agents of mistreating and detaining people on Brazilian soil.

Due to the persistence of these incidents, the two countries' governments have begun to set border markers, especially in the Amazon region, which until recently was impenetrable.

The two governments have stated that they have no territorial demand and that the establishment of border markers is based on a treaty from the last century.

Counterfeit U.S. Currency Made in Colombia

PY0110203891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Federal Police have ordered the imprisonment of a colonel who is charged with leading a gang that was selling counterfeit dollars in Brasilia. The investigation shows that the $100 bills were made in Leticia, Colombia. [passage omitted]

The police have no doubt that many people bought these $100 bills, even at Itamaraty Palace, the seat of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. Two of the six gang members arrested with $200,000 in false bills in their possession are Itamaraty employees, who confessed that they were selling the bills at work. [passage omitted]

[Begin Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma recording] The gang has carried out activities for a long time. The false $100 bills are made in Leticia and are introduced to Brazil through the Tabatinga-Manaus route. [end recording]

Colonel Surrenders

PY0310024091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Colonel Antonio Gomes de Oliveira, who has been accused of leading a group of U.S. dollar counterfeiters, surrendered to police in Brasilia. Police believe that more than 400,000 counterfeit dollars have been circulated into the market.

Gomes has been accused by police of being the leader of the group that counterfeits dollars. He appeared at the police station this afternoon, five days after the arrest of the first group of counterfeiters. The colonel said he will talk only before a judge and refused to answer any of the 50 questions.

On leaving the police station, the colonel tried to avoid reporters. However, the police chief in charge of this case said he has no doubt about the colonel's involvement.

[Begin recording] [unidentified police chief] No, I have no doubt whatsoever.

[Unidentified reporter] Is he the head of the group of counterfeiters?

[Police chief] Yes, he is the leader of the group. [end recording]

The policeman commanding the investigations has decided not ask for the preventive arrest Gomes, who offered to remain under police custody.

Police believe the group has more members. Four other men are wanted by police.

Construction Company Seeks Ties to EEC Market

PY0210231491 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Sep 91 Section Three p 10

[Text] Belo Horizonte—The Mendes Junior Construction Company is establishing a partnership with Wismmut Ag, the largest civil construction and mining state company in the old Germany, to set the basis for work in the EEC. This report was released yesterday in Belo Horizonte by Mendes Junior President Murilo Salles Mendes.

According to Salles Mendes, the Mendes Junior Company already invested $2 million this year in market research and trips to Germany.

"We have been chosen by that state company among several companies in the world to make up a joint

venture and participate in bids," he said. Mendes added that the partnership terms have not yet been well defined. "The amount of resources the company will have to invest has not been defined yet either."

According to the Mendes Junior president, in six months the new firm already will be in a position to participate in public bids. "It is a highly competitive market and for this reason our officials are being trained," Mendes said. He said he returned from Germany last week.

Mendes expects to obtain a share of the cake" [no opening quotation marks as published] of investments, estimated at $100 billion yearly, which will be necessary to modernize the German infrastructure. "With the unification of the two Germanies and the conversion of dollars, people found themselves with much money to spend. This has caused a tremendous accumulation, for example, of automobiles. Germany does not have the physical infrastructure to handle them," he said.

According to Mendes Junior, Wismmut Ag, before unification, was a company with 50 percent Soviet capital. Now the German Government has 100 percent of the shares. "It is a company with approximately 30,000 employees and is going through a reduction process," Mendes said.

According to Mendes Junior, "in view of the social changes," Europe has become a market more attractive for investments.

Military Command Satisfied With Evacuation Drill

PY0310013091 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by Niomar de Oliveira from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] The Southeastern Region Military Command has expressed its satisfaction with the evacuation drill conducted in Angra dos Reis County. The drill's objective was to train the local population in case there were a nuclear accident at the Angra 1 plant.

The Military Command and representatives of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy, the Social Action Ministry, the State Civil Defense, the Angra dos Reis Mayoralty, and other organizations of federal, state, and municipal governments participated in the evacuation drill, which ended at 1500.

The Social Action Ministry spent 100 million cruzeiros in the evacuation drill. The drill began at 0930 today when four whistles located in strategic points of Angra dos Reis began to sound.

The Military Command deemed the drill satisfactory but admitted that it must be improved until it becomes really secure and perfect.

* Grain Harvest in South Drops 24 Percent

91SM0499D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 31 Aug-2 Sep 91 p 16

[Article by Liliana Lavarotti: "Harvest in Southern States Down 24 Percent"]

[Text] Brasilia—Brazilian grain production this year comes to 57.3 million tons, 2 percent less than the total crop last year. The recent survey of the 1990-91 harvest, published last Friday by the Conab (National Supply Company), of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, indicates that the area planted was also reduced by 3 percent: 37.7 million hectares, as against 38.9 million hectares in the previous year. Compared with the last estimate of 24 May, there was an increase of 1.2 million tons, because of the larger corn and wheat harvests in the Central Southern region.

The South, where the crop was down 24 percent from last year, accounts for 24.8 million of the 57.3 million tons harvested throughout Brazil. The Southeast harvested 12.9 million tons (27 percent more than the previous harvest), the Central West produced 12.3 million tons (up 10 percent), the Northeast harvested 5.6 million tons (up 91 percent [as published]), and the North produced 1.5 million tons (up 14 percent from last year).

The drought in the South, where the major grain-producing states (Parana and Rio Grande do Sul) are located, and problems with the distribution of credit during the planting season, were detrimental to the harvest, according to Celio Porto, director of the Conab.

Celso Matsuda, national secretary of agricultural policy in the Ministry of Agriculture, explained that the impact of the smaller harvest has already been absorbed by the market. For some producers, domestic market prices have already achieved parity with international prices. Matsuda announced that within 45 days, at most, the government will eliminate the import aliquots on "agulhinha" rice. In addition to the 400,000 tons already imported this year, by December the country should purchase another 300,000 tons from abroad.

Government technicians see the supply picture for basic products, such as rice, beans, corn, and wheat, as more favorable now than it was last year. This is because 4.1 million more tons of these products were harvested this year (40 million tons, as against 35.9 million tons last year).

Soybeans were primarily responsible for the decline in grain production. As a result of the drought in the south, the soybean harvest this year came to 14.5 million tons—the same level as 10 years ago—as against 20.1 million tons last year. Although this does not cause a supply problem, because soybeans are typically an export product, it will mean a loss of foreign exchange revenues

for the country. The Conab director said that soybean exports will bring in about $1 million less than last year's international sales.

In this last survey of the summer harvest, the surprises were the corn and cotton crops, which, like the wheat crop, exceeded previous expectations. Total corn production was 21.2 million tons, 2 percent more than the 1989-90 crop. Some wheat producers preferred to use some of their acreage to grow a small corn crop. The corn crop is estimated at 923,000 tons, as against 451,000 tons harvested last year. As a result, corn imports have been reduced by about 600,000 tons; they should not exceed 1.2 million tons.

Production of seed cotton was also 4 percent higher than the May forecast, because of an 11-percent increase in Parana, where the average yield was higher than it was last year. Total cotton production came to 1.13 million tons.

Larger yields in the wheat crops—which rose from 1,006 kg to 1,651 kg per hectare—also changed the figures in the Conab's last survey. The Conab director said Brazil's entry into the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) is leading the producers to use more technology in wheat production. The crop is estimated at 3.5 million tons, as against 3.3 million tons last year.

Chile

Aylwin Seeks Popular Support For Social Efforts

PY0310020491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] President Aylwin asked Chileans to understand the efforts made by the government to attain growth with social justice.

President Aylwin delivered President of the Republic scholarships to 26 youths on behalf of the 13,800 people who benefited in the country. In his speech, Aylwin said the government clearly understands teachers' problems and the necessity to improve their dignity and assure their possibility of making progress. He said this is the reason why the teachers statute was promulgated. He added, however, that other sectors linked to the health and public servants sectors also have needs that have to be met with limited resources.

[Begin recording] The government has criterions of equity and justice. I am deeply sorry about the fact that there are people in Chile who earn less than what they need. I am deeply sorry because there are families that do not have enough resources to educate their children, but this is part of the national reality, and we will not overcome this reality by merely engaging in disputes. We have to distribute our limited resources with equity, but above all by trying to improve them. We have to make Chile grow. Therefore, we say that we need growth with equity. [end recording]

This means to promote economic development but at the same time ensure that products are not distributed merely in keeping with the market laws but that they can be distributed with equity.

Finance Minister Foxley Returns From Germany

PY0210222291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has returned to Chile after meeting with the highest-ranking German Government officials. The Chilean minister met in Bonn with German Government and Christian Democratic Party representatives. Foxley had a long meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Foxley visited Germany at the invitation of Chancellor Kohl, who wanted to meet the Chilean minister because he contributed to developing an economic model admired in German business and government circles.

Chancellor Kohl and Minister Foxley did not address economic issues alone. Kohl also was vividly interested in hearing a firsthand explanation on Chile's current situation and future possibilities.

Political observers told Radio Cooperativa in Bonn that Chancellor Kohl gave great importance to his meeting with Minister Foxley. The meeting lasted more than an hour.

This is very unusual considering Kohl's usual meetings with foreign ministers. The event was interpreted as a gesture of interest in Foxley and the Chilean people. Kohl will visit Chile at the end of this month.

Minister Foxley said in Bonn that his visit was particularly important for Chile and for Chilean-German bilateral relations.

[Begin Foxley recording] They consider Chile an example in Latin America. We would like to see a German Government offer so that we can encourage a Latin American integration with closer ties to European integration. This offer would balance Latin American relations, which at present are strongly tilted toward the United States, and would encourage it to turn more toward Europe. We would also like to see a reduction in custom barriers and an exchange increase. We export nearly $1 billion to Germany but the new united Germany offers great opportunities for the export of fruits, timber, minerals, and manufactured goods. The field for exchange is very big. The chancellor's visit will encourage trade increases even more. [end recording]

Reportage on Foxley's Visit

WA0210150291

For reportage on the visit by Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley to Germany, including reports on his talks with

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, please see the Germany section of the 2 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Rojas Discusses Defense Budget in Paris

PY0310025691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas stated in Paris this morning that the part of the Chilean Armed Forces budget earmarked for former employees of the dissolved CNI [National Information Center] represents less than 0.3 percent of the total.

Rojas talked to the press at the end of an exhibition prepared by the chief of the European Space Agency, a European agency equivalent to NASA. On that occasion, the Chilean defense minister voiced assurances that the defense budget will be approved by Congress.

Regarding the agreement signed with the French defense minister on bilateral military cooperation, Rojas said that it will help multiply exchange possibilities and will provide support in defense matters between Chile and France.

Meets British Air Force Commander

PY0310024891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas met Sir Peter Harding, the commander in chief of the British Royal Air Force. This was Rojas' first official activity in London.

Minister Rojas and General Luis Henriquez Riffo, the national defense chief of staff, were met at the airport by Chilean Ambassador German Riesco.

Later, the defense minister went to the British Defense Ministry, where he talked for 30 minutes with Sir Peter Harding.

EEC Policy on Farming Subsidies Criticized

PY0310012291 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Sep 91 p C5

[Report from Madrid by correspondent Ester Levinsky]

[Excerpt] Chilean Agriculture Minister Juan Agustin Figueroa has charged EEC member countries with lacking a true desire to make international commitments on an equal footing. He also noted that the deadline to reach an agreement with the EEC expires early next year.

Figueroa made these remarks during the Inter-American Conference of Agriculture Ministers being held here in Madrid. EEC representatives also are attending the conference.

Conference delegates described Figueroa's speech as the most significant one. In his speech, Figueroa said that in an earlier meeting with EEC representatives in Brussels, "we did not see a political will by either the EEC or Japan to seriously assume an international commitment that would result in limiting their support for and subsidies to agriculture."

Figueroa urged conference delegates to realize that "we are running out of time. The most optimistic individuals believe that we have only until January or February 1992 to ultimately succeed or fail." [passage omitted]

Army Chief Comments on Letelier Case

PY0210232291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] General Jorge Lucar, the Army deputy commander in chief, said he is confident the courts will clarify the case of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The Army deputy commander in chief was questioned on this issue after he inaugurated a meeting of directors of geographic institutes from South America and Spain.

[Begin recording] [Lucar] Yes, but it is the same with all branches, the judicial branch, the Army, and all other institutions. Every branch must trust each other.

Therefore, the judicial branch is one of the state's branches. Therefore, we must trust in it.

[Reporter] Did the Army plan to appoint an attorney for General Contreras?

[Lucar] As an Army officer unfortunately I do not have any (?opinion) on that. [end recording]

Lucar refused to respond to whether the Army is supporting retired Gen. Manuel Contreras Sepulveda.

The Army's opinion on this issue, specifically the Army commander in chief's, has been expressed on several occasions already, Lucar added.

In conclusion, the Army deputy commander in chief did not clarify the Military Judge-Advocate Office's intervention in the Letelier case. This is a judicial problem on which I have no opinion, he said.

Union Leader Says Party 'Government Alternative'

PY0310011291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] UDI [Independent Democratic Union] President Julio Dittborn has said that his party will be a government alternative with a novel platform and modern ideas and goals.

Dittborn said the UDI and the PPD [Party for Democracy] are the only modern parties within the Chilean political spectrum, but the PPD lacks an ideology and this makes it different from the UDI.

Dittborn also said injunctions are appropriate when the law is violated and that the strikes that have been taking place are the result of promises the government made in its electoral campaign.

The government did right in enjoining at the courts those who promote illegal strikes, but the coalition [alliance in the government] must assume its responsibility, Dittborn said.

With respect to the last professors' strike, the UDI believes that high schools must be turned over to the professors for them to manage.

With respect to Education Minister Ricardo Lagos's performance, the UDI president said the minister's performance has been mediocre and that there has not been any boldness or creativity.

The only solution they have proposed is to increase taxes and this is the easy way: Bread today and hunger tomorrow, Dittborn concluded.

With respect to the National Renewal Party, Dittborn said the two parties are similar and that, in election time, it is logical for the two parties to confront the municipal elections together.

In conclusion, the UDI president said the UDI has picked up the military government's and former President Augusto Pinochet's legacy but does not intend to reformulate or revise that time.

Government's 'Repressive Acts' Reported by ANSI

PY2809185891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] The National Association of Independent Unions [ANSI] has reported that the Government has started to carry out repressive actions against the labor union movement. ANSI President Jorge Frias thus supported workers' leaders who have faced charges this past week due to their actions in support of strikes.

[Begin Frias recording] The democratic government has adopted a repressive attitude, thus denying the union movement's role in national life and the sector it represents. The regime hinders the workers' just right to strike, instead of trying to find formulas to reach an understanding between union organizations and the regime. [end recording]

Frias described strikes as a way to exert just pressure. He also demanded the solution of labor problems through mechanisms that lead to understanding between businessmen, the government, and workers.

Occupants of Italian Embassy Leave Building

PY0310002091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by Hugo Vergara]

[Text] The 14 occupants of the Italian Consulate, eight men and six women from the Liberation Youth Coordinating Board left the building at 0815, claiming that they had achieved their goals. Nevertheless, the Italian ambassador has said that he did not contact them.

The remarks were made by the embassy's occupants, who entered yesterday the building located at the intersection of Roman Diaz and Clemente Fabres streets.

Here is what they said:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Where are you going?

[Unidentified occupant] To 32 Marin Street. To the southern cone.

[Reporter] Why are you leaving?

[Occupant] Because our goals have been achieved. [end recording]

Later, none of the 14 occupants of the Italian Consulate, however, were found at 32 Marin Street. There we were told that a news conference would probably be held this afternoon. Nevertheless, they reiterated that they had achieved their goals.

For his part, Italian Ambassador to Chile Michelangelo Pisani-Massamorile stated that he will not lend himself to making publicity for these groups and that he did not contact the occupants. He reiterated that the embassy intends to hold talks only with authorized entities. The Italian ambassador expressed his respect for Chilean democracy.

Colombia

Government Supends Peace Talks 'Indefinitely'

PA0210191691 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1733 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The government has indefinitely suspended the peace talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB]. It conditioned the resumption of the talks on the total end to the attacks and all kinds of activities by the subversive elements. Here is Government Spokesman Mauricio Vargas.

[Begin Vargas recording] Under the present circumstances, it is obvious that the guerrillas are incapable of guaranteeing minimum conditions of detente in the country. They continue to attack the civilian population and political leaders who, making use of their most sacred and legitimate rights, defend their ideas through peaceful means. As a result, the peace talks will only resume if there is a definite change of attitude on the part of the guerrilla groups, which must allow the aforementioned conditions of detente to take place. [end recording]

After this announcement from the Secretariat of Information and Press, Government and Interior Minister

Humberto De La Calle Lombana stated that the current situation does not offer the necessary guarantees or conditions to continue the talks with the CNGSB, which were in their fourth phase, in Caracas.

[Begin De La Calle recording] There is no set deadline. We have demanded guarantees. The guerrillas must guarantee that they will suspend their attacks on political leaders. The guerrillas must prove that they do not consider terrorism to be an adequate mechanism to reach their political goals. As the communique states, we will only renew the talks if the guerrillas guarantee that these attacks will not occur again. Until we receive this guarantee, the government will maintain its position that the peace talks are suspended. We believe there are no conditions to return to Caracas right now. Before we do, the guerrillas must clarify the events in El Cauca. It is incredible that we still have not received the guerrilla's answer at this stage of the game. We have not received its emphatic, categorical, and clear condemnation of the events in El Cauca Department [end recording]

The advisory commission members and government delegates, who returned from Caracas on the night of 1 October, and President Gaviria were still meeting at the time of this report.

Issues Conditions

PA0310010291 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Report by Carlos Arturo Paez]

[Text] The conditions for the resumption of the talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] were announced following a meeting among President Cesar Gaviria, the government minister, and the dialogue and advisory commissions. The government says that the fact that the CNGSB cannot guarantee unity in the process and an end to rebel activity is a matter of concern. This is the minimum condition set by the government for the resumption of talks in Caracas.

[Begin recording of Government Minister Humberto de la Calle] The change of attitude consists of more than just the verbal condemnation of terrorism. The government is demanding assurance that these incidents will not occur again. The government has also said that there must be radical changes in the situation, that the rebels must mend their ways and respect the people's right to express their views and practice politics in a democratic society. [end recording]

Minister De la Calle reiterated that the talks will remain suspended indefinitely because the situation is not appropriate to merit travel to Caracas. The minister left decisions on future actions in the hands of the Advisory Commission. However, the members of the commission did not provide much information on the subject.

[Begin recording] [Paez] Will you be going to Caracas?

[Saulo Arboleda, member of the Advisory Commission] No. We must wait for official statements to be released by the parties involved. We are simply an advisory and consultative commission.

[Paez] Will the talks be frozen until the rebels demonstrate that they want to talk?

[Arboleda] In today's statement, the government left a door open. [end recording]

For the time being, and while the commission studies the communique issued by the rebels, this will be the only response to the question.

Church Officials Intervene

PA0310011991 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Church representatives on 2 October asked the government not to close the doors on the dialogue. They concurrently asked the guerrillas to show that they truly intend to end the violence.

Episcopal Conference President Monsignor Pedro Rubiano and Pereira Bishop Msgr. Dario Castrillon, acting as spokesmen for the Catholic Church, asked the government not to suspend the dialogue before considering how much the Cajibio attack really has to do with the reality of the talks.

[Begin Msgr. Castrillon recording] Does the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB] have decision-making capabilities? Is there unity within the guerrilla leadership? Is there within the guerrilla movement discipline enough to allow a group of men to pledge resolve? These are the fundamental questions. The incident in Popayan may have absolutely nothing to do with the reality of the dialogue. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Msgr. Pedro Rubiano said that the peace process has been hindered in various regions where guerrilla fronts operate, adding that it would be advantageous to cooperate in such areas to accelerate the central negotiations process. The bishop of Cali admitted that he had received death threats following the murder of Judge Fabiola Borrero.

[Begin Msgr. Rubiano recording] When one is doing one's duty, when one has faith in God, when one trusts God, he has nothing to fear. [end recording]

The prelates also referred to the new constitution. He said that it is the work of minorities and temporary coalitions that imposed their criteria, thereby countering the desires of the majority of people. Therefore, he asked the small congress to carefully examine and regulate every law.

Guerrilla Cease-Fire Proposed

PA0210195591 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1736 GMT 2 Oct 91

["Proposal" announced by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) in Caracas on 2 October; read by CNGSB spokesman Ivan Marquez; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] ...cannot continue to be managed with the arrogance and hastiness that has characterized the National Government's actions and statements. This serious situation must not be treated with such fickleness that can only cause us to distance ourselves from the peace that Colombians are trying so hard to attain.

The attack that cost Meta Deputy Carlos Julian Velez' life, the massacre of the Palacios family in Fusagasuga, and the massacre in Segovia that cost the lives of 13 residents on 28 September are events that, like the attack against Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza, we regret and cannot continue to allow.

We propose to the National Government that we will continue to work intensely so as to reach an agreement to initiate the cease-fire on 20 October. The agreement is to have all-encompassing and rigorous mechanisms for supervision and verification that will promote our political will to ensure its compliance and will set a definite starting date for the national reconciliation process. [issued] Caracas, 2 October 1991. [signed] CNGSB

Rebels To Identify Attackers

PA0310022891 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0007 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] While the government dotted its i's, guerrilla representatives in Caracas proposed a cease-fire effective 20 October, and an investigation into the attack on [former Senate President] Iragorri Ormaza.

In a three-point communique, the guerrillas in Caracas did not allude to the perpetrators of the attack. Although they have denied involvement in the Cauca Department incidents, they said that the dialogue cannot be conducted in accordance with the government's subjective criteria, adding that the government virtually ignored the murders and massacres perpetrated against the Patriotic Union [UP].

The guerrillas also asked the executive branch to resume the talks at once, and proposed a bilateral cease-fire effective 20 October. During a telephone call this afternoon, Alfonso Cano said that the guerrillas will reveal in due time the perpetrators of the attack in Cauca Department, promising that the guerrillas will accept the political costs of their disclosures.

[Begin recording] [Cano] Regardless of who did it, we reject the incident. However, we will not disclose the identities of the perpetrators until we have complete information, so that the country can know exactly who is to blame for the incident which we all regret.

[Reporter] When will we learn about the results of your investigation?

[Cano] I hope that sometime between 2 and 3 October we will be able to clearly explain what happened. [end recording]

Cano said that he has control of his troops, but did not claim responsibility for other groups, which at any given time could act on the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board's behalf.

Allow Observers

PA0310005491 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Cucuta—The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] has ordered all of its guerrilla fronts operating in Norte de Santander Department to allow observers and media representatives from Venezuela and Colombia to enter in order to confirm that the CNGSB is not holding any person in that part of the country.

Carlos Bernal, peace commission secretary for Norte de Santander Department, explained that the CNGSB order was issued after several peace commission delegates met with guerrilla spokesmen in Caracas. Bernal added that the guerrillas are willing to allow a visit to their fronts in that area of the country in order to show that they have no persons kidnapped in Norte de Santander. It was also learned that the guerrillas will seek rapprochement with the area's social and economic trade unions in order to reduce tensions in the rural areas of Norte de Santander.

Bombs Explode in Cartagena; Arms Cache Found

PA0210191991 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1758 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by Alfredo Bustillo]

[Text] Two bombs exploded in Cartagena in less than 24 hours. The first bomb exploded at a military recruitment office and the other at the Santa Rita market, where two people were injured.

At 0700 on 2 October, a firebomb accidentally detonated inside a vendor's stall in the Santa Rita market. Alberto Padilla Mendoza and Freddy Gutierrez Sanchez were injured. Gutierrez has been identified as the person who placed a bomb at the military recruitment office on 1 October. A second bomb was defused in the market. It has been learned that the bombs were to be used to attack city buses. The persons arrested were identified as members of the Army of National Liberation, ELN.

Weapons and equipment used exclusively by the military were found in their homes. According to the authorities,

these subversive acts seek to intimidate the citizenry so that they will avoid the polling stations on 27 October.

General Comments on Nicaraguan Gunrunning

PA0110042791 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] General Manuel Jose Bonett Locarno, chief of military intelligence, said there is news on the theft of Nicaraguan Army weapons that were reportedly meant for clandestine shipment to Colombia.

The high-ranking officer said the Defense Ministry will issue a communique at 1000 today to report on this case, which involves Colombian Jorge Armando Monge Benavides, an active member of the 19 April Movement.

Bonett said the Nicaraguan Government and security organizations learned of intense gunrunning operations from Nicaragua to several countries, including Colombia, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The intelligence chief said that the gunrunning operations are privately run. Bonett pointed out that he did not travel to Nicaragua as an investigator because he is not empowered outside Colombia.

The Nicaraguan authorities conducting the investigation treated me well during my visit, Bonett said. He added that all the information he requested had been placed at his disposal.

Bonett said that he does not know whether Colombian Jorge Monge, who was captured by Nicaraguan authorities when the clandestine operation was foiled, can be brought back to Colombia. The military intelligence chief called his trip to Nicaragua a success, but said he could not discuss its results because the Defense Ministry will reveal the preliminary results in a communique.

* New DAS Director Vows To Fight All Crime

91SM0505A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Sep 91 p 12A

[Interview with Fernando Brito Ruiz, Director of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS]; place and date not given]

[Text] Lawyer Fernando Brito Ruiz, recently named DAS Director, said today that his institution will fight all crime with no exception, and added that actions to prevent problems of public order and security will be intensified.

[EL TIEMPO] There has always been a military man in active service or in retirement at the head of the DAS. For the first time a civilian has been named to this position. What is the new structure you will give the department? Will there be major changes?

[Brito Ruiz] No. One must start from the fact that the DAS as such was conceived as an administrative department. As you know, the function of such departments is to lend the necessary technical and administrative support to resolve certain issues. And within that parameter the department has always been able to function, regardless of the fact that in other periods there were connections with persons who are or had been members of police or military organizations.

[EL TIEMPO] What experience do you have in leading an organization charged with carrying out intensive investigations?

[Brito Ruiz] There are two aspects to this: first is the thinking of the President upon considering me for the high responsibility he has delegated to me. He obviously honors me with such a nomination. The other is that I have previously provided services to various entities and organizations, among them the Vice Ministry of Government, specifically assisting then Minister of Government Dr. Cesar Gaviria, which allowed me to understand deeply and in detail many issues involved in the role of the Administrative Department of Security.

[EL TIEMPO] One of the DAS's most important battlefronts is undoubtedly drug trafficking. Will you, as head of the DAS, change policies in confronting that issue? Will you concentrate in other locations?

[Brito Ruiz] There can be no more room for doubt. The President of the Republic has outlined a clear set of policies on this matter. The Administrative Department of Security as such will lend the relevant support and expertise in all areas involved in confronting the various problems of violence and crime afflicting the regions of the country. We are absolutely committed to being able to confront all movements of violence without exception, and wherever necessary, our activities will be strengthened, and in addition, when it is required of us our efforts will be dedicated to those crimes that in some manner are more intense and cause greater problems.

[EL TIEMPO] What general policies will be established to lead the DAS?

[Brito Ruiz] There are several aspects that are important to point out: first is that the DAS's past dedication and efforts, especially General Maza Marquez's leadership, in undertaking to confront various issues of crime, are well regarded. The entire country is aware of the great achievements General Maza Marquez has made at the head of the Department, even at risk to his own life and personal integrity. We believe we must not only continue to maintain the fronts the Administrative Department is currently covering, but also strengthen others that for one reason or another result in serious situations of crime and violence in the country.

[EL TIEMPO] When did you hear of your nomination? Have you spoken with General Maza?

[Brito Ruiz] Just a few minutes ago. I have not had the opportunity to speak with General Maza. I hope to do so today or tomorrow.

Ecuador

Borja on Democratic Processes, Presidency

PA0310025191 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Interview with President Rodrigo Borja by "Contrastes" program host Mary Arias in Quito; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Arias] Mr. President, why doesn't militarism do well anymore in Latin America? Is it because democracy has finally prevailed, or is it because the military garrisons ran out of political formulas?

[Borja] It is mainly because militarism expressed our society's lack of maturity. Many times, militarism could be explained due to the disorder prevailing in the civilian leadership and the political cadres of our countries. I am not trying to justify militarism; there is no justification for that. In some cases, however, it is evident that circumstances resulting from a sort of power vacuum, a lack of abilities, and from the disorganization of the civilian groups promoted the military's rise to power in our Latin America.

Since then, we have developed in a significant manner; we have matured and our democracies have strengthened, improved, and become more effective. The military are now playing the professional role assigned to them by the constitutions in our countries. These roles are usually defending our national borders and safeguarding both the sovereignty and the constitutional order in each of our countries.

[Arias] What should our countries do to face the challenge of European integration next year, expand to the U.S. market by forming part of it, or strengthen regional blocs such as the Andean Group?

[Borja] I think we should strengthen regional groups. As I once said, I believe that integration is the sign of our times. It is an inevitable process if we want to make any economic and social progress. Our internal markets are no longer able to support development, particularly industrial development. That is why there is a movement in all of our countries to search for greater economic opportunities that will make that development possible.

This is true both for the small countries and for the large countries. The Europeans are integrating through the EC; the United States is seeking integration with Canada and Mexico. In South America we see that Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay are also seeking a very interesting process of integration within the framework of the Southern Cone Common Market [Mercosur]. Therefore, the integration movement is becoming more common not only in our America, but also in many other parts of the world. I believe that it is the sign of our times.

[Arias] The Andean Group has strongly encouraged the integration of Latin America. However, that integration seems utopic. Are Bolivar's ideals lost?

[Borja] I would say that this is the case in many aspects. The integration process is not an easy one; it is plagued with obstacles and problems that must be surmounted and solved. Aware of this situation, the presidents of the five Andean countries decided two years ago to meet every six months to review all the work in the field of integration that had been done in the previous six months.

The results are excellent. We have been able to invigorate the Andean integration process. It is progressing well; it has become more dyunamic, it has awakened, it is moving, and it is moving ahead. We are now working on a very important stage, that of rapidly lifting tariffs in order to form the first stage of a free trade zone.

There will be a common tariff in the second stage. We will eventually move toward an Andean Common Market, which is the final stage of our integration progress. At the same time, that Andean Common Market will join other common markets or broader market areas in Latin America.

[Arias] The international clamor until recently was for a new economic order. Now everyone speaks of structural adjustments. Have the lenders won, sir?

[Borja] Those who lend the money wield great influence. The power of money, the power of capital, is very great; this holds true both for people and states. It is therefore unquestionable that—even though we may not like it—those who have plenty of money also control science and technology. These are all mechanisms of international domination. There is no way to conceal this fact. [passage omitted]

[Arias] Sir, do you believe in reelection?

[Borja] This topic has been discussed a lot. As you well know, Ecuador's Constitution forbids reelection. The Constitution has an article that forbids the reelection of presidents or whoever heads the government, whatever his title may be. This article was approved by the new generation of politicians as a result of one person, Dr. Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, being president five times. It was also done because former presidents were always threatening those in power. It reached such a point that there was practically an unwritten article in the Constitution saying that you could only be president of Ecuador if you had previously been president. This effectively closed the doors on a whole new generation of politicians, many of whom were lost because of the presidential reelection. In view of this experience everyone who was part of my political generation was—I would say—traumatized by this experience...

[Arias, interrupting] You include yourself in this group?

[Borja] Yes, my political generation, all of us, even though we belonged to ideologically diverse groups, agreed to add this article to the Constitution, forbidding reelection. We also added one year to the presidential term, to make it five years. This was later put back to four years. I feel that four years is a short period. I do not say this for my own sake. I am about to end my term; I have 13 months to go. Anyway, one cannot see the results of economic policies in four years.

[Arias] Sir, does forbidding reelection not relieve a politician of greater responsibilities? Not having to remain popular for an upcoming election could make a president unconcerned about how he will be judged in the future.

[Borja] Your question makes lots of sense. Reelection makes every president a potential presidential candidate. That could direct him to solutions that bring applause and popularity, but that do not efficiently address the country's important problems. Many times—and this is the drama that faces those who govern during these times of international economic crises—we are forced to make decisions that are not the most popular, but are nevertheless essential to put things back in order. This is especially true in economic matters. I once said, and I would like to repeat this to you and to Panamanian television viewers, that when I make a government decision I am not seeking applause; I am trying to make a correct decision. This could change if the temptation of reelection were present.

[Arias] On balance, how has your work been to date—more satisfaction than frustration, or vice versa?

[Borja] Personally, subjectively, I have many frustrations, because there are many things that I wanted to accomplish and could not; or if I started these projects, I would not have enough time to complete them. However, viewing the results of my government objectively, I am very pleased and satisfied with our achievements, especially regarding social issues. We have made great strides in social issues. We have put the economy back in order. We have had great respect for public liberties such as the press, the right of Ecuadoreans to speak out, and the rights of trade unions and political parties. Generally speaking, we have had great respect for the symbols and categories of our democratic system. Regarding international politics, we have managed to reestablish Ecuador internationally and to reopen the opportunity it deserves to express its opinions. We won a seat on the UN Security Council; we have joined the Rio Group; we have become active members of the Arctic Treaty. These and others are all achievements in international politics.

[Arias] Why do you think you have been unable to fulfill some plans, to the limitations of power, miscalculation, or personal flaws?

[Borja] It is basically due to a shortage of financial resources—and I do not mean to avoid my responsibility. You understand that every social change has to be financed, every social change. All economic infrastructure projects require large sums of money. For many reasons that would be too long to enumerate, but are related to the international economic crisis, the flow of money from the south to our countries has stopped. We have turned into net exporters of capital. All these things diminished our possibilities for financing our internal development.

In addition, we have heavy debts. We are indebted beyond our means to pay. We have a whole set of factors involved. For instance, the price of our basic exports has dropped. Our market has at times had problems selling our products abroad. The truth is that all these factors have conspired against our possibilities to have the necessary funds to finance economic development and social development programs. This situation entails a major frustration, because we have been unable to advance some projects at the pace we would have wished.

[Arias] You also mentioned that measures were adopted that were unpopular for many.

[Borja] Yes.

[Arias] How do you think most people in your country will judge you?

[Borja] I think favorably in the long run, because some measures were adopted to maintain a healthy economy. For example, I was forced to raise the price of fuel. We were selling fuel at the lowest price in all of Latin America. The fuels fled the country for other places where the prices were five or six times higher than in Ecuador. There was no way we could control the contraband, and so we raised the prices. Fuel is a perishable product that is in short supply, and we cannot waste it. The measure was not properly understood in my country. Opposition politicians took it upon themselves to confuse the people regarding the true advantages of a measure such as this. We have had to adopt similar measures that were harsh, but that were forced upon us by circumstances.

[Arias] What do you feel deep down when surveys show a decline in your popularity?

[Borja] It is very painful, very painful, to see one's popularity vanishing as one governs and takes measures. This is painful when it involves leaders who can say no. Some leaders say yes to everything, and so maintain their popularity because of their acquiescence or demagoguery. My style is to say no when necessary, and to govern the country with a steady hand, put the economy in order, and adopt some measures to that effect. So, then, I feel that the huge popularity with which I took office is vanishing. [passage omitted]

[Arias] It is said that nations have the governments they deserve. Does Ecuador have the government it deserves?

[Borja] If that maxim were true, I would feel most flattered if people were to say I deserve to be the

president of a nation as noble as Ecuador. If that statement were true, it would be flattering.

[Arias] What are your plans once your presidential mandate ends?

[Borja] To retire to private life. I enjoy writing. I started some books, but I have been unable to finish them because of my eventful political life. A day ago Mexico's Economic Culture Fund sent me copies of my first book on constitutional law put out by that publishing firm. This is the third edition. It really thrills me to be creating or generating things. Once my presidential mandate ends, I will devote myself to writing.

[Arias] Thank you, President Borja.

Government Condemns Coup, Violence in Haiti

PA0310044091 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Ecuador has condemned the coup d'etat in Haiti and rejected the disregarding of the people's will, which was legitimately recognized in President Aristide's election. The government said that it advocates reinstating a legal state in Haiti. It reasserted its support for the statements issued by American countries at a time when all the governments are pledged to strengthen democracy and institutional systems.

Acting Foreign Minister Mario Aleman said that Ecuador condemns this coup, and that it will participate in the diplomatic efforts exerted to overcome this situation and to prevent political violence from immersing the Haitian people in a bloodbath. Aleman recalled the pledge that all American countries have made to consolidate democracy in the continent and to preserve freedom and human rights. He insisted on the need to work so that all the democracies may guarantee the people's welfare and development.

Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez will participate in the ad hoc OAS foreign ministers' meeting that will be held in Washington to discuss this problem.

Acting Foreign Minister on Peru Border Conflict

PA0210195991 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report on interview with Acting Foreign Minister Mario Aleman by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] On 1 October, Acting Foreign Minister Mario Aleman said that Ecuador is a peaceful country, but it is prepared to defend its sovereignty. Aleman, who went to the Court of Constitutional Guarantees to explain the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru, deplored the statements made by Peruvian Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres rejecting Ecuador's proposal to request the pope's mediation in the territorial dispute.

[Begin recording] [Aleman] [Words indistinct] We have the full support of all the political parties, the media, and the people concerning President Borja's statements at the highest world forum, meaning the UN General Assembly. This proves once more Ecuador's traditional vocation for peace. We are a peaceful nation and we have proved it. The people have dignity and they will not [words indistinct]. Ecuadoreans will defend, in every sphere, Ecuador's inalienable rights. Our people believe in peace, but they also believe in the defense of their rights.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, could you tell us what actions have been conducted so that Ecuador may [words indistinct]?

[Aleman] I think that a period of reflection is necessary. I believe that Peru has enough information to realize that Ecuador is extending its hand to find an honorable settlement to an old dispute between our nations. I believe that we are nations united by common goals, including the integration and cooperation efforts that are currently being made. Consequently, it is necessary to establish the groundwork for a fruitful dialogue.

President Borja has spoken on behalf of all the Ecuadoran people. His position is supported by Congress, the media, and all the other groups in Ecuador. I trust that his appeal—which was issued in extremely good faith and honesty because these are the elements that Ecuador always uses in its international relations—will be heard by the international community. I also trust that his appeal will also be heard by our neighboring countries, as well as the Peruvian Government and people.

[Reporter] Peru has rejected the pope's mediation in the dispute. What are Ecuador's plans at the diplomatic level?

[Aleman] [Words indistinct]. I believe that this kind of process takes time. Ecuador has shown its Latin American spirit and peaceful attitude with this proposal; and it has shown that we are confident that the problem will be solved according to the law. [end recording]

* More on BCCI Transactions With Local Banks

91WD1200Z Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 7 Sep 91 p 13

[Text]

Ecuacambio Taken Over for Its Ties to BCCI

Quito—The Quito foreign-exchange house Ecuacambio S.A. has been taken over by the Superintendency of Banks for having financial ties with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The superintendency also revealed that the Amazon Bank (Banco Amazonas), Consolidated Bank (Banco Consolidado), and Bank of the Andes (Banco de los Andes) have engaged in transactions with the foreign bank.

The Ecuacambio Case

According to a document that the Superintendency of Banks sent to the members of the congressional committee investigating the laundering of drug money, "as of 30 June 1991 Ecuacambio had deposits in the Paris branch of BCCI, a checking account of 77,382.47 French francs and a savings account of 1,618,645.33 French francs; this is equivalent to 304,726,931.86 sucres, or 272.48 percent of Ecuacambio's paid-in capital and legal reserves."

It indicates that Ecuacambio was found to have made deposits of 304,223,879.21 sucres in BCCI.

In light of these findings, the report says, the Superintendency of Banks decided on 20 August to take over Ecuacambio in order to safeguard its customers' interests.

Ecuacambio Shareholders

According to the documentation submitted by the committee investigating the laundering of drug dollars, the shareholders in Ecuacambio include the current general manager of the Banco Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo (Ecuadoran Development Bank), Gerardo Ruiz Navas; others are Jose Alberto Littuma Arizaga, Soliman El-aasser Mohamed Silvana Littuma Maldonado, and minors Jose Alberto Nobrega, Soline El-aasser Littuma, and Soliman Jr. El-aasser Littuma.

Ecuadoran Banks and BCCI

According to documents that EL UNIVERSO has seen, the Amazonas, Consolidado, and Andes banks have had financial links to BCCI.

Amazonas

A document sent by the general manager of the Banco Amazonas, Carlos Mosquera P., to the superintendent of banks says: "...we must inform you that neither the home office nor any other office, branch, or agency of the Banco Amazonas S.A. have had or now have any relationship with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International at any international location."

"Nevertheless, we know that a correspondent bank of ours, the Capital Bank of Miami, has used the Japan and Canada offices of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International to report and confirm letters of credit issued against Ecuadoran imports."

Banco de los Andes

The general manager of the Banco de los Andes, Guillermo Duenas, reveals in a note to the Superintendency of Banks that "the institution that I represent kept account number 41100933 in the Miami office of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International."

"This account was closed on 21 December 1990 on our instructions owing to the scant activity that we had with the bank.

"In 1990 this account was used mainly to receive transfers ordered by Brastrepo to our client Petrobras Internacional."

Banco Consolidado

In a note conveyed to the Superintendency of Banks, the general manager of the Banco Consolidado, Giovanni Di Mella, explains that "in the past the Bank of Credit and Commerce International merely sent us, through its Bogota, Colombia branch, two letters of export credit in the name of our esteemed client Novopan del Ecuador S.A."

"Neither we nor our branch in the city of Guayaquil have kept any bank account in any office of the bank in question anywhere in the world."

* Money Laundering Committee Reviews Transaction

91WD1200Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 6 Sep 91 p 9

[Text] Quito—The legal representative of Bank Invest, Dr. Efren Cherrez, appeared yesterday before the congressional committee investigating the laundering of drug money and stated again that there were serious irregularities in the payment of a $400,000 debt that the Banco de Descuento (Discount Bank) owed to the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

The committee had charged that the former superintendent of banks, Fernando Guerrero, had signed a transaction agreement as the legal representative of the Banco de Descuento, which was being liquidated, to pay off a $400,000 debt that the Guayaquil bank owed to BCCI.

BCCI is the Luxembourg-based bank that is involved in the world's biggest illicit drug-money laundering scandal.

Dr. Efren Cherrez asserted that the payment violated the Bank Law since the debt to the BCCI was neither a preferential one nor the bank's largest.

He contended that neither BCCI nor its legal representative, Dr. Jose Joaquin Franco Porras, was on the Banco de Descuento's list of creditors; therefore, there is no reason why the former superintendent of banks, Fernando Guerrero, made the payment.

He indicated that his client, Bank Invest, is the largest creditor ($7.5 million) of the Banco de Descuento and that it was willing to accept payment of half of the debt. The Banco de Descuento declined, preferring instead to pay BCCI, which offered a minimal discount of 10 percent.

Funds Use To Be Investigated

The chairman of the committee, Fernando Larrea, announced that it would continue the investigation until it determined what other Ecuadoran financial institutions had dealings with BCCI.

He indicated that the committee has been waiting for the pertinent information that it requested from the superintendent of banks, Patricio Avila, but that so far it has not been forthcoming; therefore, the committee will be forced to summon him again.

He stated that the debt was paid with a check for 300.6 million sucres and that on a single day, 13 June, the 300.6 million was paid out and converted into dollars, and $200,000 dollars were then transferred to Luxembourg.

Peru

Defense Minister on Ecuadoran Troop Presence

PY0310001491 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2321 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 2 Oct (ANDINA)—Defense Minister Jorge Torres Aciego today reported that an Ecuadoran military contingent of approximately 100 men has established the "Lieutenant Ortiz" surveillance post on Peruvian territory.

Minister Torres Aciego said the incident occurred because part of the common border lacks "delimitation." This is why Ecuador claims possession of the territory.

The minister said the Defense Ministry and the government in general believe "this post is in Peruvian territory," and that the withdrawal of the Ecuadoreans must be requested through diplomatic channels.

He added: "The solution to the problem will depend on the way the Foreign Ministry handles the issue through Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara. It is clear, however, that the Rio de Janeiro Protocol that established the Peruvian-Eucadoran common border is still in full force."

Torres Aciego asserted that the Peruvian Armed Forces are prepared to defend their sovereignty. He added, however, that the government and major Peruvian officials hope that a peaceful solution is found for the difficulties and tension experienced over the last few days.

He pointed out, however, that if Ecuador insists in questioning the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States—who guaranteed the protocol—will support the Peruvian position "because as guarantors, they must contribute to the peaceful solution of any conflicting criterion."

Torres Aciego emphasized that the contribution of these countries would not be military, but simply political.

The defense minister said the Lieutenant Ortiz garrison is wrong because Ecuadoreans moved their positions into Peruvian territory. A similar thing happened with the "Paquisha" garrison in 1981, during Fernando Belaunde's government, the minister said.

Torres Aciego stressed that Peru's attitude regarding the series of declarations between the two nations is one of complete calm.

"We are ready to defend our sovereignty, but we are very calm because we trust the 1942 Peace, Friendship, and Borders Treaty will be respected," the minister said.

The defense minister made these remarks after testifying before the Chamber of Deputies' Justice and Human Rights Committee, presided over by Horacio Canepa Torre, to explain Defense Ministry human rights policies.

Congressmen View Mediation of Pope With Ecuador

PY0210221291 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0149 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 1 Oct (ANDINA)—Congressmen from several parties today pointed out that papal mediation for a solution to the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border incident is not proper.

Raul Ferrero Costa, a former dean of the Lawyers College of Lima and senator for Libertad Department, indicated that there is no sense in asking the pope, as Ecuador has done, to mediate in a nonexistent problem that has emerged precisely due to a unilateral position by the northern neighboring country.

I lament the request that Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja made when addressing the United Nations, he said.

In view of this fact, I believe that Peru should demand that border marker 1424 be replaced with the participation of the guarantor countries, which must act in accordance with what is established in the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol that gave a definitive solution to the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border dispute, he said.

Senate President Felipe Osterling Parodi, of the PPC [Popular Christian Party], agrees with this position, and he indicated that there is an urgent need to finalize the demarcation of the pending 78 km of the border.

Osterling expressed the desire of preserving good relations with Ecuador, and he believes that poor countries should not burden themselves with the problems of arms.

Leftist Senator Gustavo Mohme has stressed that, with all due respect, the intervention of the pope makes no sense.

"The protocol has its own arbitrators, and they are the guarantor countries," he said.

Fujimori on Terrorism as Obstacle to Development

PA3009232991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2244 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Lima, 28 Sep (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori called terrorism the last obstacle to the country's development and said it hinders local and foreign private investment.

Fujimori added that, within the strategy against subversion in Peru, the Armed Forces must be at the vanguard of the struggle for development and social justice that will make it possible to defeat terrorism.

The Armed Forces, which now are gaining the people's support, will defeat terrorism, Fujimori stressed during the closure of a businessmen's meeting on security and development in Lima on 27 September.

Fujimori said that criticism that his government is not acting firmly against political violence is unfounded.

"Peru is tired of the painful attitude of those who had the opportunity to put their ideas into practice while in power and instead permitted the advance of terror," he stressed.

Fujimori added that his government "is aware of the difficulties businessmen face as a result of attacks by criminal terrorist bands." He urged them to continue working for the country.

Fujimori praised his compatriot UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whom he said "has contributed to restoring Peru's image abroad."

Regarding his government's efforts to reincorporate the country into the international financial community after a six-year absence, Fujimori said that, thanks to a recent agreement signed with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), other financial institutions will support Peru.

On 27 September the IDB announced the extension of a $325 million credit to Peru, which will be used to improve the country's road system.

Shining Path Leaders Surrender to Army

PY2709130091 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 27

[Text] Military sources from Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, reported on 19 September that 10 Shining Path terrorists, who were leaders of peasant communities in the Apurimac River Valley surrendered to an Army garrison.

The peasants, carrying white banners and rifles, voluntarily surrendered on 17 September to a military garrison in Picchasi, 300 km south of Ayacucho. They expressed their hope to rejoin Peruvian society and cooperate with the forces of order.

For four years the peasants acted as Shining Path "community leaders." They turned their villages into "strongholds in support of the armed struggle" and into training centers for future guerrillas whom they provided with assistance and hideouts.

The peasants told the soldiers that they gave up terrorism, Maoism, the Red banner, and President Gonzalo, the name given by the Shining Path terrorists to their leader, Abimael Guzman, who is a former philosophy professor.

Based on the reports provided by the peasants who surrendered, including three women, a military dragnet operation was conducted throughout the area to arrest Shining Path terrorists hidden in various villages on the Apurimac River's left bank. Some 30 terrorists have reportedly been arrested so far.

The peasants now are acting as guides for the military patrols, which will have to guarantee them a return to their villages and the creation of peasant defense patrols armed by the forces of order to fight the Shining Path terrorist organization.

The names and exact locations of the peasant communities that deserted the Shining Path organization are being kept secret by military authorities until the pacification operation concludes in the area.

Military authorities are conducting a campaign so that peasants who cooperate with Shining Path terrorists can give up terrorist activities and surrender to military garrisons, carrying white banners in return for all the guarantees they will immediately receive.

Energy Deputy Minister's Resignation Accepted

PY2709215491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1256 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Summary] Lima, 26 Sep (ANDINA)—The government has accepted the resignation of Energy Vice Minister Ricardo Giesecke Sara-Lafosse through Decree 058-91-em, which was published today in the official daily EL PERUANO. Through Decree 059-91-em, which was also published in EL PERUANO, Daniel Hokama Tokashiki was appointed to replace Giesecke.

Guyana

Agreement With U.S. Erases $112 Million Debt

FL0110133691 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Guyana and the United States have signed an agreement to erase Guyana's debt to the U.S. One hundred and twelve million dollars is owed and will be

forgiven by Washington, paving the way for the U.S. to reopen an office of its Agency for International Development in Georgetown.

Leftist Party Leads PNC in Opinion Poll

FL0210151991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1208 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 2, CANA—The leftist People's Progressive Party (PPP) has bested the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) in a public opinion poll here. However, the recently established institute which conducted the poll said that Guyanese, unused to polling techniques and "under a climate of fear, may not have responded truthfully" to the question of which party they would vote for in elections expected before year-end.

The poll was conducted by the Turkeyen Polling and Research Institute (TRPI) between August 23 and September 7 across Guyana. It showed the PPP favoured by 35.6 per cent of the sample and the PNC 27.1 per cent, with undecided persons representing more than 24 per cent. The United Force (TUF) was favoured by 4.2 per cent, the Working People's Alliance (WPA) 3.7 per cent, and the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM) 2.9 per cent.

Asked which political leader they admired most, 35.3 per cent of those interviewed voted in favour of PPP leader Dr. Cheddie Jagan, while 27 per cent chose President Desmond Hoyte. More than 20 per cent of those questioned said no comment.

Some 32.7 per cent of those interviewed thought that the PNC would win the most votes in the coming general elections while 37.9 per cent given the PPP the nod. Again, the undecided totalled more than 20 per cent.

On President Hoyte's management abilities, 28.8 per cent though it very bad, 27.2 thought it satisfactory, 17.1 poor, and 10.3 good.

Some 41.3 per cent thought that elections would be free and fair, 27.7 per cent said maybe, 15.3 per cent said no, and more than 15 per cent did not give a view.

On what was the most important issue facing Guyana, 38 per cent chose a change of government and inflation. Eight per cent said government inefficiency and while 7.3 said corruption.

On which political party could best handle Guyana's problems, the PPP was favoured by 34.7 per cent of the sample, while the PNC got support from 25.7 per cent. Just over 26 per cent did not know.

The institute is headed by Baytoram Ramharrack, with associates Ram Racka and Ravi Dev. The PNC accused it of being partisan and lacking in credibility.

Opposition Party Seeks Caretaker Government

FL0210225891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 2, CANA—The opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA), warning of a constitutional crisis if opposition parties reject a preliminary voters list, has met President Desmond Hoyte and asked for a caretaker government until after elections.

"The meeting was a very frank exchange of views, and at the end of it, President Hoyte indicated his willingness to continue exploring the idea, and wanted to know the extent to which other opposition parties considered the proposal," WPA executive member Rupert Roopnarine told CANA Wednesday.

However, the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), which opposed a similar WPA proposal several months ago, reacted coldly to the renewed proposal.

"There is no mood to move in that direction as far as I can see ...The mood for that is just not there," PPP executive member Clement Rohee told CANA Wednesday after the WPA's three-man delegation met Hoyte and a delegation of his People's National Congress (PNC).

Election authorities last Saturday posted a preliminary voters list, the same day President Hoyte dissolved Parliament for elections, which must be held by year-end. Opposition nominees on the elections commission have objected to the posting of the list, which they wanted subjected to a sample test to assess its accuracy. Since the list was posted for claims and objections, the opposition has claimed it contains substantial errors. Roopnarine said Wednesday that the opposition parties were contemplating rejecting the list and warned of a "(constitutional) bind Guyana is now facing" with Parliament already dissolved and elections due.

"Depending on the extent to which the other opposition parties might be interested in the proposal, President Hoyte certainly was interested in continuing the exploration (of the caretaker proposal)," Roopnarine said. According to Roopnarine, the WPA proposal would see the current government take half the Cabinet positions, and the opposition parties the other half, with President Hoyte as chairman holding the "swing vote."

After the WPA mooted the idea in December 1990 in Parliament, Belize Prime Minister George Price, visiting Guyana in April for a proposed Jimmy Carter Centre elections observer mission, had said a caretaker government would only be necessary if there was a mutiny or a bloody revolution.